



Clergy Leadership Program

of Central Pennsylvania

Seminar Two: Speaker Bios

Monday, 4 December 2017

Seminar Coordinator

Drew Hart is Assistant Professor of Theology at Messiah College and author of the book *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*. In addition to teaching and writing, Drew is a frequent speaker at churches and colleges across the country and he also partners with a variety of church and community groups to facilitate anti-racism training. A graduate of Messiah College, Drew has an M.Div from Biblical Theological Seminary in and a Ph.D. from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. For more information see: <https://drewghart.com/>.

Presenters

Crystal Brown is the Executive Director of the Brethren Housing Association, a Harrisburg-based organization that assists individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness by providing a holistic program of stable housing, supportive services, and loving relationships. Crystal oversees BHA's mission, vision, and programs while developing strategic partnerships throughout the community. For more information see: <http://bha-pa.org/>.

Maria Hernandez leads MILPA, the Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania, a grassroots network of immigrant families that cultivates leadership and organizes events across Pennsylvania, fighting for human rights and trying to keep immigrant families together. For more information see: http://englishsite-milpa.nationbuilder.com/about_us.

Lindsay Houpt-Varner is the director of the "Heart and Soul Project" a 12-month initiative of the Cumberland County Historical Society that is uncovering and recording hundreds of stories that reflect the broad and diverse cultural heritage (i.e., the "heart and soul") of the greater Carlisle region. Lindsay has a Ph.D. in history from Durham University and is an adjunct faculty member in the department of history at Dickinson College. For more information see: <http://greatercarlisleproject.dickinson.edu/greater-carlisle-heart-soul/>.

Aaysha Noor is a member of the Islamic Society of Greater Harrisburg who has become increasingly concerned about the visible increase of religious bias in American society since the election of Pres. Donald Trump. Noor says that all the faith communities of the region—Muslims, Jews, Christians, and others—need to work more closely together to protect and defend each other. For more information see: <http://www.isghpa.org/>.