

# From Trauma to Triumph

## *CMM Annual Fundraiser 2021*

**Celebrating 55 Years of Service Towards an Inclusive American Narrative**

**Thursday, June 17, 2021, 6:00 – 7:30pm EDT (via Zoom)  
Pre-Show Concert 5:40pm EDT**



**Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries**

Faiths Uniting in Social Action Since 1966

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Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

Faiths Uniting in Social Action Since 1966

## *Living as Though the Future were Now*

June 17, 2021

The curriculum that CMM has used in its program of [Values over Violence](#) has stressed three ideas. The first is the importance of Forgiveness, or a commitment to a way of life that helps us to no longer be victims of our circumstances and transforms us into creators of a new reality. The theme of Forgiveness requires a great effort of internal growth. The second theme is that of Reconciliation. Here the ideas of truth, justice, agreements or pacts and the reparation of memory are involved. We have no way to know the future except through the words of others. **Living as Though the Future were Now** requires building truth together, promoting justice, making agreements, and living with new memories. CMM has seen this happen in the Department of Youth Services, in local community groups of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and economies, and most recently among youth in Job Corps.



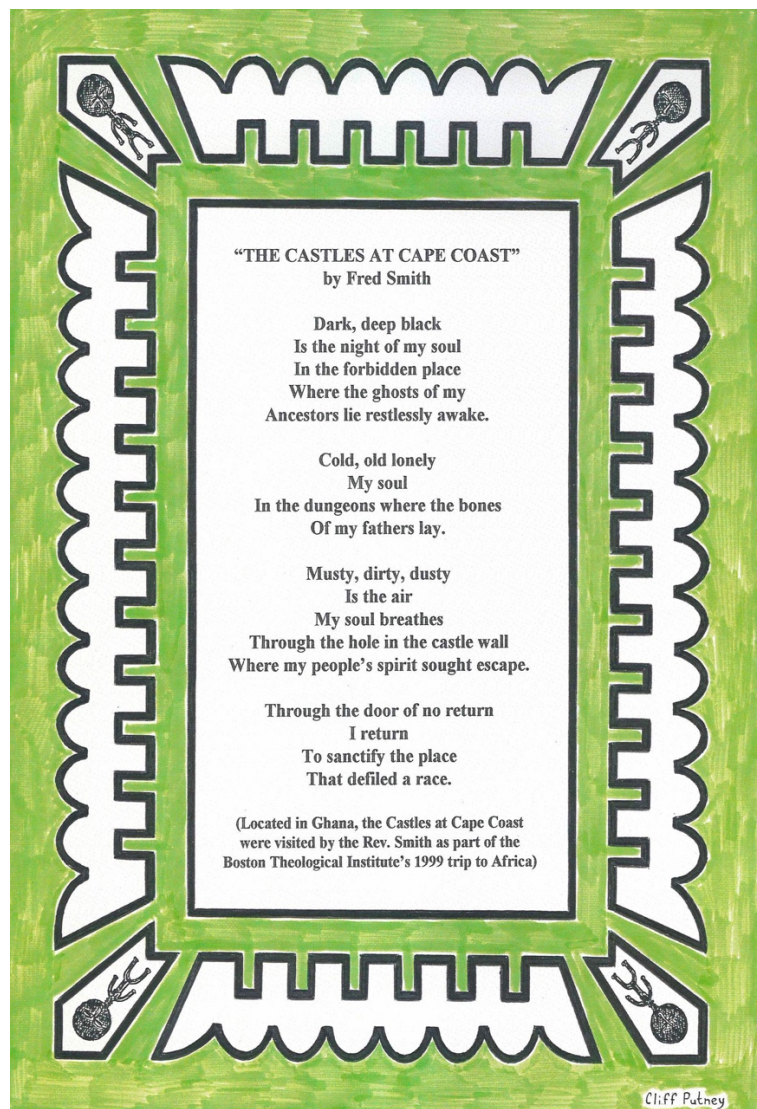
The third theme is that of agency. As agents we have the power to make choices. The years immediately prior to 9/11 were called the Age of Apology. We are now in an Age of Mistrust. What makes for a rhetoric of apology that is linked to meaningful reconciliation? What enables us to celebrate and not mistrust the “other”? Celebration with the “other” is, without a doubt, the most important moment in the whole process of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. It is here where the commitments made are sealed and a new life is begun. Three kinds of celebration draw us to the final stage of the process of Reconciliation: the celebration of a new life with the “other person”; public testimony to the path taken and the impact of Forgiveness and Reconciliation; and the expression of solidarity with people of the community who have been victims of some form of violence, to express that solidarity by means of a celebration of memory and reparation.

**Living as Though the Future were Now** is to make public the path of Forgiveness and Reconciliation. It is to recover the soul of the victims by re-establishing the sense or meaning of life, personal safety, and social relationships. In South Africa such celebration is seen in the renaming of the Day of the Vow, December 16, 1838, which acknowledged the victory of Afrikaans over the Zulu peoples at the Battle of Blood River. It is now renamed and reconceived as the Day of Reconciliation, the day has become more inclusive of all peoples and representative of the diversity of the South African population. In the United States, something similar could happen inclusive of all peoples with Emancipation Day celebrations, or a Juneteenth Independence Day that commemorates June 19, 1865, and the announcement of the abolition of slavery throughout the former Confederate States of America.

Celebration is a privileged form of recovering the order and the consistency of life in the face of the chaos caused by violence. As persons with agency, we can change an Age of Mistrust to an Age of Responsibility by acting as if the future were now.



Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Petersen  
*CMM Executive Director*



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# Evening Schedule

**6:00 Welcome**

*Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Petersen, CMM Executive Director*

**6:02 Inclusive American Narrative**

*Ariel Kayton, CMM Intern*

**6:12 Introduction of the Keynote Speakers**

*Hubert Williams, CMM Board Chair*

**6:12 Keynote Speakers**

*Thomas Porter, Jr. (Rev. Charles Harper Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient)*

*Rev. Kelly Fassett*

*Rev. Dr. Walter Fluker (Rev. Charles Harper Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient)*

*Mayor Kim Janey (with an introduction by Robert Lewis)*

**6:42 Announcing of Additional Awards**

**CMM Community/Congregational Social Action Award**

*At My Neighbor's Table Committee, Needham*

**Ruah Spirit Award**

*Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP*

**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Young Leadership Award**

*Shriver Job Corps Center*

**6:50 "Giving because I believe in tomorrow" + Introduction of Actions that**

**Lead "From Trauma to Triumph" – Hubert Williams, CMM Board Chair**

*Safe Lives – Sophia Bishop-Rice "Values over Violence"*

*Safe Places – Phillip Jones "CLAH: Building Equity"*

*Shared Dreams – Dr. Aaron Spevack "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave"*

**7:02 Tribute to Rev. Dr. Rodney L. Petersen**

*Rev. Dr. David Killian, CMM Advisory Council Co-Chair*

**7:07 Question and Answer**

**7:30 Closing**

# Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries

## Major Programs

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*Your financial support now funds CMM's programs!*

[Values over Violence \(VoV\)](#) is a program to foster dignity through a civic culture based on **forgiveness and reconciliation**, put on with the help of the Cummings Foundation, Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation, Cabot Family Charitable Trust, congregations and individual donors. It trains youth and adults to examine their emotions, learn to identify events which trigger anger and revenge, and look at choices about how to handle these events. We focus on the need to address the emotional issues stemming from violence, felt by victims, perpetrators, and the community. Without emotional and spiritual healing, it becomes impossible to step beyond violence and chart a new direction. Trainings have taken place at sites including the Shriver Job Corps Center, Roxbury Community Caring Clinic, schools & universities, congregations, tenants' associations, and the Department of Youth Services. Values over Violence is a Boston-based version of the curriculum developed by Fr. Leonel Narváez & ESPERE (the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation) in Bogotá, Colombia. The ESPERE materials have **a proven track record in reducing violence** not only in Latin America, but also in the U.S.

[Clergy and Laity for Affordable Housing \(CLAH\)](#) is an alliance of congregations and individuals organized by Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) seeking to work on two fronts with Greater Boston's crisis in affordable housing:

1. **We seek first to help persons and families in immediate need because of illness, loss of work or other setbacks by remodeling or restoring homes.** Typically, we put together a crew from urban and suburban communities of men, women, and youth, to work on a Saturday, Sunday afternoon, a holiday or other day of convenience. Projects are chosen as determined by application.
2. **Second, we are working strategically with developers, people in the building trades, and funders.** We seek to put together a strategy to obtain property and build affordable housing, offering a fair rate of return on investment without pricing out people with community roots. A part of this collaboration is toward enhancing social services and common space in the interest of neighborhood security.

**Ruah Interfaith Spirituality Programs** offers opportunities for grounding and spirituality, listening to one another's faith and value-based perspectives, as we come together to heal ourselves and the earth. We believe that these are essential for sustainable social justice work. **Specific programs this past year include** the Interfaith Revelation and the Environment Zoom speaker series' in the summer, UN International Day of Peace in September, Facing Our Racism: Becoming Conscious Partners workshops in the fall & spring (and this summer), 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of In Celebration of Rumi with music & poetry, Sharing Our Stories: Towards an Inclusive American Narrative initiative, *Fratelli Tutti* interfaith Zoom panel, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Interfaith Day of Service with Brandeis University, and the At My Neighbor's Table community conversations on housing equity, essential workers' rights and the continued segregation of our school systems.

**Boston Bridges Fellowship** trains the **religious leaders of tomorrow in reversing fear** and finding ways for the various faith traditions to live together in the modern day. We live in an age of unprecedented interaction among people with different religious identities and communal affiliations. In order to foster a healthy democratic society and enrich our religious communities, we need **leaders that can help their constituents engage this diversity** in constructive and meaningful ways. **This program is sponsored jointly with Hebrew College.**

CMM's **community forums, public awareness campaigns, and legislative advocacy** build coalitions to address local, national and global issues of interfaith concern. CMM also has **strong partnerships** with the New Democracy Coalition, Seymour Institute, Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, MA Coalition for the Homeless, MA Poor People's Campaign, Communities Responding to Extreme Weather, Jewish Climate Action Network, The Paulist Center, Friends Meetings, Refugee Immigration Ministry, MA Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, MA Council of Churches, Episcopal City Mission, Islamic Council of New England, CAIR-MA, North American Indian Center of Boston, MA Center for Native American Awareness, MAS Boston, Boston Theological Schools, Boston Islamic Seminary, Northeastern University's Center for Spirituality Dialogue and Service, Pluralism Project, Dignity Project at Hebrew College's Miller Center, Kids4Peace Boston, among many others. Through our **bi-weekly enews**, CMM educates and informs our member communities and the larger constituent base in Greater Boston about our work and similar interfaith, social justice programs across our community. ***Sign up for enews by visiting [www.coopmet.org](http://www.coopmet.org). Please email [info@coopmet.org](mailto:info@coopmet.org) if you have any questions about getting involved!***

# Keynote Speakers 2021

[Thomas Porter, Jr.](#) is a trial lawyer, mediator, teacher and minister. At Boston University School of Theology, where he has taught since 2005, he is a lecturer and co-director of the Religion and Conflict Transformation Program. He helped create and directed from 2000-2012 the JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation in The United Methodist Church. After graduating from Yale University, he received a MDiv from Union Theological Seminary and a J.D. from Boston University Law School. He studied mediation at Harvard Law School and Eastern Mennonite University. Tom is an elder in the United Methodist Church and a member of the New England Annual Conference, where he was the chancellor for 23 years. He was a founding partner of the trial firm of Melick & Porter LLP in 1983 and has been a trial lawyer since 1974, representing religious institutions, universities, hospitals, professionals, nonprofit organizations, and others. He was one of founders of the *Journal of Law and Religion* and was chair of the board from 1989 through 2001. He was a founder and the president of the Council of Religion and Law, a society of law professors and theologians as well as lawyers and ministers, from 1978 to 1985. He was a member of the board of Union Theological Seminary, chairing its educational policy committee, from 1992 to 2001. ***And tonight, he is a recipient of the Rev. Charles Harper Lifetime Achievement Award, named for the first executive director of CMM, recognizes transformative long-term leadership of an individual in service to the principles of the CMM Mission statement.***



[Rev. Kelly Fassett](#) has served as the Executive Director for UniteBoston since 2012 and has been the catalyst for UniteBoston's bridge-building work throughout Christians in the region. She has a certificate in Christian Foundations from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She also graduated with her MDiv in Global and Community Engagement at Boston University in 2019, with certificates in Religion and Conflict Transformation as well as International Mission and Ecumenism. She has also worked as a consultant to organize the New England City Forum and has spoken at conferences around concepts related to evangelism, mission, Christian unity, and conflict transformation. Kelly and her husband Andrew are both ordained ministers with the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts and live in an intentional Christian community in the Dorchester area. They have one daughter named Abigail and enjoy spending time outdoors.





**Rev. Dr. Walter Fluker** was born in Vaiden, Mississippi and raised in Chicago, Illinois where he attended public schools. He served in the United States Army as a Chaplain's Assistant from 1971-1973. He received his BA in philosophy and biblical studies from Trinity College in 1977, and an MDiv in 1980 from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Fluker completed his PhD in social ethics at Boston University, in 1988. He retired from the Boston University School of Theology in June 2020. Early in his career, he served as a local pastor, lecturer, and chaplain of many schools. Fluker went on to be a distinguished speaker for the US Embassy in Abuja and Lagos, Nigeria; Cape Town, Pretoria and Durban, South Africa, China; and India. Having served visiting professorships at the Harvard College and Divinity School and Candler School of Theology; and visiting scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary. Fluker joined the Boston University School of Theology faculty as the Martin Luther King, Jr. professor of ethical leadership and director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Initiative for the Development of Ethical Leadership in 2010. He consulted for the Democratic Leadership Council National Conversation, Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program, the Department of Education, the Department of State, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Georgia State Superintendents' Association, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. *And tonight, he is our other recipient of the Rev. Charles Harper Lifetime Achievement Award.*



**Kim Janey** is the 55th Mayor of Boston. She was sworn-in as the first woman and the first Black mayor in the City's history on March 24, 2021. Mayor Janey is leading Boston through the COVID-19 pandemic with a citywide agenda for recovery, reopening and renewal. Mayor Janey's pandemic recovery priorities include distributing vaccines effectively, returning children to school safely, and centering disadvantaged workers and businesses in the City's economic recovery. Mayor Janey is committed to ensuring the City of Boston reopens safely and equitably, with relief and renewal in every neighborhood. A proud fourth-generation Roxbury resident, Mayor Janey comes from a long line of educators, entrepreneurs, artists, and advocates. Mayor Janey was raised with values that guide her to this day: the importance of education, the power of community organizing, and the fundamental principles of equity and justice. Prior to becoming Mayor in 2021, Janey made history in 2017 when she was elected to the Boston City Council as the first woman to represent District 7, which includes Roxbury and parts of the South End, Dorchester, and the Fenway. In 2020, she was elected by her peers as President of the Boston City Council.



# Additional CMM Awards 2021

*The CMM Annual Awards* are presented at the Annual Fundraiser (formerly the Annual Meeting) to recognize individuals and organizations in the greater Boston area – and nationally – who remarkably demonstrate CMM's mission to mobilize people "across economic, religious, racial, and ethnic boundaries so that, in partnership, we can work more effectively for a just and peaceful society and for spiritual growth and interfaith understanding."

*1) The CMM Community/Congregational Social Action Award* recognizes a CMM member congregation, partnership, or network that models exemplary commitment to social justice, peacemaking, and cross-cultural understanding.

This year's award goes to the [At My Neighbor's Table Committee, Needham.](#)

What started out in 2017 as a return to CMM's roots in bringing together urban and suburban communities, that time with Black Lives Matters leaders, blossomed into the Needham community taking leadership and delivering community conversations on timely



issues such as structural racism, education equity, and restorative justice. The committee now is an interested group of members consisting of Needham Interfaith Clergy Association and their congregants, Needham Diversity Initiative, Needham Human Rights Committee, and other community partners, with plans to continue its work into the fall with a twelfth event. It honors the lifelong work of David Summergrad, who was taken far too soon from us, and uplifts other organizations and initiatives that deserve attention and support. CMM still remains involved today. It is currently chaired by Marlene Schultz of Temple Beth Shalom, with leadership shared by a variety of persons.

**2) *The Ruah Spirit Award*** presented for the first time in 2013, recognizes an individual and/or organization that models the interfaith relationship-building and dialogue.

The Ruah Spirit award is given this year to **Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP** Based in Boston, Fr. Ryan directs the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Born and raised in southern Minnesota, Tom did his graduate studies in theology at the Washington (D.C.) Theological Union and the University of Geneva. He was ordained a Paulist in 1975 and served in campus ministry at the Ohio State University (Columbus) and at McGill University (Montreal, QC.), prior to directing the Montreal-based Canadian Centre for Ecumenism for 14 years.



He spearheaded the founding of Unitas in Montreal, an ecumenical center for spirituality and Christian meditation, serving as its director prior to developing the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Among his wide bibliography is the title, *Interreligious Prayer: A Christian Guide* (2008). He weds his passion for Christian unity and interreligious understanding with his deep interest in the spiritual life by leading retreats, preaching missions, and writing books and articles.

**3) *The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Young Leadership Award*** in honor of Dr. King, who inspired CMM's founders and led the movement as a younger adult before his death at age 39, is given to an individual or group of youth and/or young adults who embody and enact Dr. King's vision of Beloved Community.

This year's Young Leadership Award goes to **Angela Rackley, center director, and her staff, particularly Marinella Serrano-McKinnie and Vicki Wilkins, and to the youth of the Shriver Job Corps Center**. Job Corps connects eligible young men and women with the skills and educational opportunities they need to succeed in life. The staff were responsive to the "Values over Violence" curriculum and the youth found it engaging. Throughout the six-week program staff was attentive to supplying all that was needed to ensure the program's success. We hope that this iteration of "Values over Violence" takes on a national event horizon.



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*Julie, Michael, David and Eli Bailit gave in honor of Julie's mother,  
Marlene Schultz, of the At My Neighbor's Table Committee*

***\*Current CMM Board or Advisory Council Member  
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the event. Thanks to everyone for their generous support!***

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**Temple Beth Shalom  
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**AT MY NEIGHBORS' TABLE COMMITTEE**

**for bringing our community together for significant conversations, relationship building, and interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue. TBS is proud to be a host and founding sponsor of AMNT.**

**MAZEL TOV to the whole committee,  
especially those who are TBS members!**

**Rabbi Jay Perlman, Rabbi Todd Markley, Rabbi Julie Bressler,  
TBS President Eugene Stein, our TBS Board of Trustees,  
and the entire Temple Beth Shalom community**



*The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.*

-Coretta Scott King

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