

Love, Forgiveness, and...Racism?

New Paths for Western Religions

Please join us for an open and honest discussion about the relationship between religion, ethnicity, and racial oppression from Alaska Native, Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives.

The purpose of this discussion is two-fold:

1. We hope to express the complexity of the relationship between religion, racism, and colonialism. All religious groups have been the persecuted and the persecutors, and have wide variations in the ways they are interpreted and practiced.
2. For those who are members of an Abrahamic religion, our goals are to increase awareness of the history of one's own faith traditions and to reclaim the practice of one's religion in a way that makes amends for how it has been used to harm or exclude.

Panelist:

Laurie Cropley

Producer & Host of *Hold Each Other Up* on KNBA, & citizen of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribe of Alaska

Gregory & Malika Jones

Human Rights & Community Activists, & members of the Muslim Community of Anchorage

Rev. Jacob Poindexter

Senior Minister, First Congregational Church of Anchorage

Roy Mitchell

Dept. of Anthropology, UAA & member of Congregation Beth Shalom

Webinar Date

Monday, November 16

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Zoom Link

[Join the Webinar](#)

How to Collaborate With Your Local College or University
NACCC Racial Justice Task Team ~ February 2021
First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska and University of Alaska, Anchorage

Love, Forgiveness...and Racism?

In the fall of 2020, Dr. Jennifer McCurdy, professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, approached me about potentially organizing a dialogue on issues of religion and racism in Anchorage. Dr. McCurdy had known about my interest in issues of faith and my connection to the First Congregational Church of Anchorage. I saw that as a great opportunity to advance the university-religious community partnership which is central to the work of the NA Racial Justice Task Team. I was then able to connect Dr. McCurdy with Reverend Jacob Poindexter of the First Congregational Church of Anchorage to kick start preparations. This led to the inclusion of the Interfaith Council of Anchorage and support of the UAA Faculty Senate Diversity Committee.

The dialogue, titled *Love Forgiveness...and Racism*, was received well and attended by community members and students. The panelists were: Laurie Cropley, Producer and Host of *Hold Each Other Up* on KNBA and Citizen of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribe of Alaska; Roy Mitchell, Department of Anthropology, UAA and Member of Congregation Beth Shalom; Gregory & Malika Jones, Human Rights & Community Activists and Members of the Muslim Community of Anchorage; and Reverend Jacob Poindexter, Senior Minister, First Congregational Church of Anchorage. This was the first such dialogue which brought together the Department of **Philosophy** and the Interfaith Council to explore issues of religion and racism.

Although my role was limited to participation in the event and serving as a link between Rev. Jacob and Dr. McCurdy, I feel it taught me the importance of remaining open and available to opportunities that arise to further our work. It also showed me the desire among faculty members to build connections with the faith community but may not always have the connection to actualize these aspirations. I hope to continue serving as that link and bridge. The future plan is to ensure that these interfaith-university dialogues become regularized and perhaps, even, forming a part of the *Diversity Dialogue Series* of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee.