



Conversations on Race and Reconciliation:

COMMITTEE

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Panelists for *The Faith-Based Dialogue*

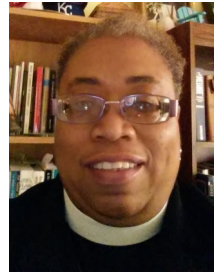
Thurs, March 30, 2017 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Manhattan Public Library Auditorium



Haydory Akbar Ahmed is from Bangladesh pursuing his Ph.D. in Economics from Kansas State University and has been a resident of Manhattan since 2012. He served as the Treasurer of the Islamic Center here in Manhattan. He has been actively involved in various volunteer and leadership activities sponsored by Islamic Center and the KSU Muslim Student Association.

Rev. Valencia Jackson is pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, here in Manhattan. She earned a Master of Divinity degree from Saint Paul School of Theology (2013). She is a graduate of Oral Roberts University (1991) and the University of Missouri, Kansas City (1997). Rev. Jackson has been a minister for the past twelve years, pastoring several AME churches in the Midwest district. She is a trumpeter and founder of the “*Sound the Trumpet International Ministry.*” Rev. Jackson has a heart for discipleship and to encourage women in the ministry.



Eileen Meyer is President of the Manhattan Jewish Congregation. Currently, she is an Associate Broker of Real Estate with ERA High Pointe Realty. She is a former Army Logistics Officer. Her career opportunities have provided her unique experiences to explore the global world; including the Middle East, South America and Europe. Born in Chicago, Illinois to an Italian/Polish family she lived in neighborhoods with diverse cultures, and now is happy to call Manhattan her home.

Rev. Carlos Ruiz-Santos is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Salina, currently working as the Associate Pastor at Seven Dolors Church here in Manhattan. He is the Director of Hispanic Ministries for the Salina Diocese. Born and raised in Mexico, Rev. Santos has worked as a priest in the following Kansas communities; Salina, Goodland, Colby, and Manhattan. He completed his seminary and theology studies in Mexico and the United States.



Rev. Caela Simmons-Wood is the pastor of First Congregation United Church of Christ. She is passionate about understanding and confronting systemic injustices, especially relating to race, sexuality and gender, economic inequality, and environmental stewardship. Rev. Simmons-Wood is a recent recipient of the Manhattan, Kansas Martin Luther King Community Spirit award. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2010 and served as an Associate Pastor for seven years. Rev. Simmons-Wood is a Kansas native and completed her Master of Theological Studies at Perkins School of Theology at Dallas, Texas. She also received a Master of Divinity degree at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

DESIGNED BY JAN GALITZER

PEACE...UNITY...UNDERSTANDING