

# THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE FORMATION



ISSUE #2 | JANUARY – 2023



## FOUNDATION OF BIBLICAL JUSTICE

Each Institute for Justice Formation (IJF) Newsletter has specific purposes with content in line with those purposes.

Below is a series of sermons on “Racial Justice and the Gospel” delivered by Rev. Sean Roberds, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Herndon, VA. The sermons are on YouTube and start 28-32 minutes into the service. Click on each title to view the sermon on YouTube:

1. “ [The Damascus Road Journey](#)” (Acts 9:1-9)
2. “ [A Change of Sight](#)” (Acts 9:1-19)
3. “ [Living with New Sight](#)” (Acts 26:9-18)
4. “ [Finding Ourselves in the Story](#)” (Acts 9:1-18)

## BOOK REVIEW

[How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery in America](#) by Clint Smith. Smith writes about visiting locations (tourist sites now) that are part of American slavery history. He points out how the tour guides are handling addressing or not addressing the events of slavery that occurred at those locations. Eye-opening view through the eyes of a descendant of slaves.



**KATHLEEN ARBAN**

## IJF COHORT HIGHLIGHT

Next, is a statement from a new student, Kathleen Arban, as she begins courses in the Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation (GCBJF). Her mentor is Rev Sean Roberd, Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Herndon, Herndon, Virginia, a racially diverse church congregation.

In August 2022, I embarked on a journey sponsored by the Justice Formation Fellowship. Dr. Drew Hill described the excursion as an “immersive experience of the Civil Rights Movement.” He predicted it would be a “truly unforgettable road trip” exploring the “relationship between race and religion in America.” I heard about the trip in March from my friend in the program, Shauna King, and miraculously I could carve the time out of my schedule.

I am happy to report Dr. Hill did not oversell the program; indeed, the trip was life-changing. Thirteen individuals, some who identified as White and some who identified as African American or Black, participated in the pilgrimage. We retraced the route that the Freedom Riders had taken 61 years before, stopping at such historic sites as the F. W. Woolworth Building, Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and Medgar Evers' Home. We also toured a variety of museums, including the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, and the National Civil Rights Museum, among others.

## **Kathleen Arban's Statement Continued...**

In addition to learning a lot about history, I got a small glimpse into the lives of the foot soldiers who crafted the Civil Rights movement. The trip evoked a string of emotions ranging from awe to despair. I was simultaneously outraged and horrified by the atrocious acts perpetrated on enslaved individuals and their descendants and amazed by the fortitude and bravery of men, women, and children who merely wanted to be seen and treated as humans.

I now know that God led me to the pilgrimage. Why else would I spend ten days traveling on a small van with mostly strangers (many of whom ended up being pastors or clergy)? The people I met and my experience on the trip reinvigorated my faith. I met Rev. Samuel Feemster, who cultivated my interest in exploring Biblical Justice. A social worker by vocation, I have championed social justice for years, but I didn't know anything about Biblical Justice. Now, I am immersed in a new adventure – obtaining a Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation.



**SHAUNA F. KING**

I am Shauna F. King, and I am pursuing a graduate certificate in Biblical Justice. I serve as an associate minister at Springdale Community Church in Springdale, MD. Former principal and classroom teacher and I now work as an educational consultant and provide training and workshops for K-12 educators and parents. Our schools serve our children, and God cares about children.

I am pursuing a certificate in Biblical Justice because I want to be able to operate in my professional and ministry roles in a way that pleases Him. In addition, my husband and I are raising two amazing teenagers, and we want to model and teach them the ways of God.

I began as a special student at Leland in Fall 2021, unsure of what direction God would lead me. After participating in an IJF online conference on CRT and participating in personal small-group bible studies centered on social justice, I wanted to learn more. The national debate about what is taught in schools directly impacts my work, and I wanted to be equipped with God's truth. Micah 6:8 reveals what God intends and expects of His creation. God requires us to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him. I felt compelled to know how to serve my community in pursuit of God's justice here on earth.

I have learned so much from Rev. Feemster and the many professors and guest lecturers who have visited our classes since the beginning of the program. Hearing and interacting with such a diverse group of men and women is such an amazing and unique experience. In addition to our instructors, I also have the opportunity to work with a fantastic Christian mentor who has been a tremendous help to me throughout my journey. Dr. Cindy Wallace walks with me as I learn and develop. God loves justice and desires us to do so as well. I am grateful to have the opportunity to study Biblical Justice at Leland.



**REV. DR. CINDY R WALLACE**

Rev. Dr. Cindy R Wallace is a board certified chaplain serving veterans in the inpatient and outpatient mental health programs at the Washington DC VA Medical Center. Chaplain Wallace holds specialty certifications in Suicide Prevention, Critical Incident Stress Management, and is a Certified Grief Professional.

She serves her colleagues at the VA as the Co-Chair of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team offering peer-support in times of crisis. She enjoys public speaking and has had multiple opportunities to provide community and professional educational presentations regionally and across the U.S.

Chaplain Wallace is ordained and endorsed through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. She loves singing in the church choir, spending time in nature, laughing with her family and friends, and playing with her dog, Molly. She states, "I have been mentored by some wonderful people in my life, and getting the chance to mentor someone else is a way of giving back what has been given to me. It is important for me to be available in a supportive, non-judgmental way and provide a safe space for someone to be able to talk through what they are currently facing in order to see their way clear to a path forward. I see mentoring as a companion on the journey."

## COLLABORATING ENTITIES

- Justice Revival ( [justicerevival.org](http://justicerevival.org) )
- Reformed Institute of Metropolitan Washington ( [reformedinstitute.org](http://reformedinstitute.org) )
- Cornelius Corps ( [corneliuscorps.org](http://corneliuscorps.org) )

## JUSTICE FORMATION FELLOWSHIP PARTICIPANTS

- First Baptist of Herndon, Herndon
- McLean Baptist Church, Mclean
- Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington
- Mount Vernon Baptist, Arlington
- Parkwood Baptist Church, Annandale

## ARTICLE LINK

**Preaching on racial justice was much more difficult without in-person worship, pastors say**

By Pat Cole, June 9, 2022, from the Baptist News Global

[https://baptistnews.com/article/preaching-on-racial-justice-was-much-more-difficult-without-in-person-worship-pastors-say/?utm\\_source=Baptist+News+Global+Contacts&utm\\_campaign=acc9ddbfb8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_10\\_08\\_08\\_02\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_dd0edff639-acc9ddbfb8-54621173#.Y4JQ9nbMI2w](https://baptistnews.com/article/preaching-on-racial-justice-was-much-more-difficult-without-in-person-worship-pastors-say/?utm_source=Baptist+News+Global+Contacts&utm_campaign=acc9ddbfb8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_10_08_08_02_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dd0edff639-acc9ddbfb8-54621173#.Y4JQ9nbMI2w)

## Graduate Certificate in Biblical Justice Formation

6 Courses – each course 3 Semester Hours (SH) = total 18 SH

- B1305 - Tools-Based Bible Study
- EH3205 – In Search of Biblical Justice: A multi-focal perspective
- MF4301 - Spiritual Formation
- MF4333 – Justice, Church and Society
- MF4335 – Critical Engagement with Biblical Justice
- MF4339 - Justice Formation Externship

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IJF Advisory Group Meeting

- February 20, 2023  
Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of month  
November - May
- 2:00-3:30 PM
- Location: Virtual

### 2023 Conference: In Search of Biblical Justice

- June 9-10, 2023
- Location: Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, VA.
- Theme: Connecting Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Biblical Justice: The Last Frontier

Register for the conference here: <https://www.ijf-leland.org/register>

For the full list of events please visit our [calendar](#).

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS



The **John Leland Center for Theological Studies** is a seminary of Baptist tradition that welcomes students/teachers of all church denominations. Leland's purpose is to serve in the Kingdom of God through accessible, accredited theological education. It equips its students to become transformational leaders in the global ministry of Jesus Christ.



The **Washington Theological Consortium** is a community of theological schools/partners from diverse traditions that pursue ecumenical dialogue, interfaith understanding, and educational collaboration to better equip clergy/laity for ministry in a diverse society.



The **Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (MACBF)** serves member churches in the region that includes Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, South Central Pennsylvania, and West Virginia with resources and support.

## The Institute for **Justice Formation**



You can visit the Institute for Justice Formation at our website at [www.ijf-leland.org/](http://www.ijf-leland.org/)  
For more information about the Institute for Justice Formation contact:  
Rev. Samuel L. Feemster, Director, IJF [sfeemster@leland.edu](mailto:sfeemster@leland.edu)

# JUSTICE FORMATION FELLOWSHIP

Justice Formation Fellowship is a group of churches who unite together for the transformative work of justice in our world, rooted in a commitment to love our neighbor and the recognition of God's image in humanity. We believe the Bible reveals that our God loves and delights in Justice. More profoundly, we believe Scripture makes it clear that God requires his chosen to do justice.

The image of God in humanity manifests as the love and pursuit of the justice God loves. In light of this truth, we believe the church, the body of Christ, is called to proclaim the message and practice the ministry of reconciling humanity to God and all peoples with each other. We see the Institute for Justice Formation as an essential movement in the academic institutions of the church that can, through an informed understanding of God's self-revelation, lead our fellowship of churches to become a justice-seeking congregation.

Unreservedly, we stand with the Institute for Justice Formation, pledging our support, prayers, and commitment to the work of warring against injustice. We stand with each other as we seek to build a fellowship of justice-seeking congregations through worship, education, and advocacy.

We invite you to join us as we dismantle structures, denounce systems, and discontinue silently sanctioning norms and biases that separate us from God and move, intentionally, towards being the church Jesus built and equipped for victory, under the auspices of the Holy Spirit.

For more information about this Fellowship contact one of the following participating pastors:

- Dr. Drew Hill, Senior Pastor, Memorial Baptist Church, Arlington, VA  
[dhill@memorialbaptistchurch.org](mailto:dhill@memorialbaptistchurch.org)
- Rev Sean Roberds, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Herndon, Herndon, VA.  
[Ssrob72@yahoo.com](mailto:Ssrob72@yahoo.com)