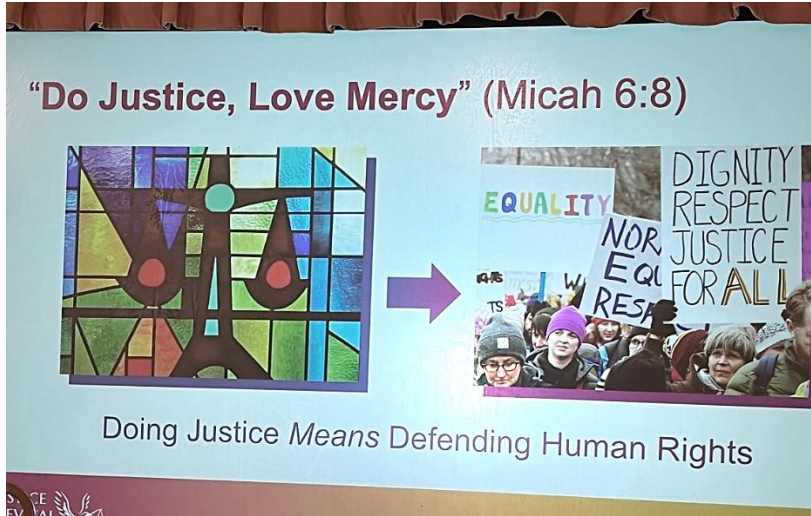


# THE INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE FORMATION



Issue #4 | October – 2023



## Foundation of Biblical Justice

Annual Conference June 9-10, 2023

Theme: Connecting Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Biblical Justice: The Last Frontier

It was a busy day and a half conference attended by 41 in-person and 43 on-line. There was too much to tell here yet below are a few memorable comments from the speakers.

Dr. Rick Elgandy – “The Gospel is political. How we live together is public.” Public theology can impact human rights. Actually, the protection of human rights depends on civil rights.

Allyson McKinney Timm – She talked about “justice revival.” She reminded us of the verse in Micah 6:8 “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” We are to notice that **justice** is first on the list of what God requires of us.

Dr. Barbara Fears – She admonished us that “we can't fight every fight so just pick something!”

Rev. Ruth Everhart – She talked about the “Me Too Reckoning” and biblical justice. Her conclusion is that the church is lagging behind in all the justice issues.

**BE SURE TO ATTEND THE FALL AND WINTER WEBINARS – See page 4.**

## BOOK REVIEW

[Crossing the Tracks](#)  
by Drew Hill (Rev. Dr.)

Drew is senior pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Arlington, VA. The book is a series of family stories as Grandpa Oscar Hill lived through the Depression, WWII, and the Civil Rights Era as a white man who did not agree with the treatment of his fellow men – black men working on the railroad, living in his neighborhood, and attending his church. He battled some storms on the job and won a few and lost a few. His white community didn't always agree with him yet they respected him. You'll laugh, you'll be shocked, you'll cry by the end of the book. Drew also conducts Zoom book club meetings based on the book and the idea of biblical justice.

**“Fear lies at the core of racism in the church and society, Beth Moore tells Truett audience”**

*Baptist News Global* headline,  
full article by Jeff Brumley, February 20, 2023  
Below is an excerpt:

White evangelicals who claim they love the Bible but dismiss its demands for social justice as devious misinterpretations of “woke” culture continue to astound Beth Moore, she told participants in a conference sponsored by Baylor University’s George W. Truett Seminary.

“This is the one place my frustration really comes through, because I don’t know how you come up with that. I don’t. I don’t even know how the math works. Because (social justice) is all over the Bible,” she said during “Time to Wake Up: Racism in the White Church,” held Feb. 16-18 virtually and on the Baylor campus in Waco, Texas.

Moore became a lightning rod for evangelical rage before and since her departure from the Southern Baptist Convention in 2021 over her anti-racism teachings and decision to join the Anglican Church North America.

Moore admitted to “a learning curve that is embarrassing,” noting it began when she was fully embedded in “a white church and white thinking” growing up Baptist in Arkansas in the late 1950s and 1960s.

{One major shift in her thinking} came with the presidential campaign of 2016, which ushered in “a political divisiveness the likes of which I’ve never seen” and an evangelicalism that was “completely unrecognizable,” she added. “What became increasingly and startlingly clear was that our politics informed our faith, rather than our faith informing our politics. We can’t even see it.”

“What I’m going to tell you is this: You cannot read the Bible through and through ... and get to the end of it and think that justice is not a social matter that is of great gospel importance to God,” Moore insisted.

Fear lies at the core of the racism in church and society, as well as at the core of “the marriage between white evangelicals and Republicanism,” she added. “Fear was a core value in my home (growing up), and it’s also a core value in this country, and, God help us, it is a core value of the church.”

## 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

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL JUSTICE FORMATION

### Schedule of Course Offerings

Fall 2023	EH 3205 – In Search of Biblical Justice
Fall 2023	MF 4339 – Justice Formation Externship
Spring 2024	MF 4333 – Justice, Church, and Society
Summer 2024	MF 4335 – Critical Engagement with Biblical Justice
Fall 2024	EH 3205 – In Search of Biblical Justice
Fall 2024	MF 4339 – Justice Formation Externship

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### IJF Advisory Group Meeting

- Nov 20, 2023
- 2:00-3:30 PM
- Location: Virtual

### Fall Webinar

- Interview with Dr. Inez Tuck, author of *Florence and Mary: Nurse Leaders and Heroines of the Crimean War*
- Dec 2, 2023, 9-11am

### Winter Webinars

- 2-part series reviewing *Crossing the Tracks* by Drew Hill
- Feb 17, 2024, 9-10:30am
- Feb 24, 2024, 9-10:30am

### 2024 Conference: In Search of Biblical Justice

- June 7-8, 2024
- Location: McClean Baptist Church
- 1367 Chain Bridge Rd., McClean, VA.

For the full list of events please visit IJF website: <https://www.ijf-leland.org/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)