

**Virginia Union University School of Theology
Johnson A. Edosomwan Center
2017 Best Practices Conference
Announcing Good News: Caring for Creation
Schedule at-a-Glance**

Thursday, May 18th

8:30– 9:30 Morning Gathering
Continental Breakfast Check In/Registration

9:30-10:30 Morning Plenary
Speaker: The Reverend Doctor Ambrose Carroll, Sr.



Rev. Dr. Carroll is one of the nation's premiere Practical Theologians and Senior Pastor, Church by the Side of the Road. He is Co-Founder of *Green the Church*. Rev. Dr. Carroll combines theology with ecology and challenges the church universal to embrace its mantle of creation care.

10:40 -12:00 Gospel of the Garden Workshops

As temperatures and sea levels continue to rise, churches are recognizing the urgency to learn new environmental practices which will help congregations thrive while exercising responsible use of God given natural resources as citizens of a global community. These workshops give attention to climate change as it relates to strategies for water sovereignty and food security, as well as energy reduction and costs reduction.

- A. *Food Sovereignty & Water Security*
Speaker: Rev. M. Dele
Nature's Friend & VA Interfaith Power and Light
- B. *Energy Alternatives Reducing Costs*
Speakers: Mr. Andrew Grigsby /Susan Hill
Richmond Region Energy Alliance



Rev. M. Dele is the Founder of Nature's Friend, a renaissance woman who has lived and worked on the prophetic edge of social change in California, Oklahoma, Washington D.C. and Virginia. As spiritual director Dele emphasizes that redeeming the soul and redeeming the soil go hand in hand. Her current mission is rooting climate adaptation knowledge in communities most vulnerable and least prepared bounce back.



Andrew Grigsby is Executive Director at the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP). Grigsby is a LEED Accredited Professional; a RESNET certified home energy rater, and a BPI Building Analyst and Envelope Professional. Previously he ran LEAP's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.



Susan Hill currently serves as Executive Director and in-house energy auditor for Richmond Region Energy Alliance. She is certified as a Building Analyst and a Whole House Air Leakage Control Installer from the Building Performance Institute.

12 Noon Lunch (on site)

1:15 – 2:15 Video and Panel Discussion

Caring for the Garden Panel Discussion
Reverend Dr. Morris Henderson
31st Street Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

Pastor Ralph Hodge
2nd Baptist Church, South Richmond, VA

Reverend Dr. Heber Brown, III
Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD

2:15 – 2:45 Question and Answer

3:00 Fair and Networking Reception
Visit and talk to grassroots organizers and vendors

5:00 Dinner on your own

6:30 Video Screening & Drop In Dialogue

Friday, May 19th

8:30 – 9:30 Morning Gathering
Continental Breakfast Check In/Registration

9:30-10:30 Morning Plenary
Calling Millennials and the Hip Hop Generation to Care for Creation
Speaker: Rev. Lennox Yearwood



Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr. is President and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus, a minister, a community activist and one of the most influential people in Hip Hop political life. A national leader and peacemaker within the Green Movement, Rev. Yearwood has been successfully bridging the gap between communities of color and environmental issue advocacy for the past four years.

10:40 -12:00 Environmental Advocacy and Caring for Creation Workshops

Activists from the NAACP and EJHA (EJ4ALL) discuss the threats poor communities face such as toxins, policy reform and advocacy work to protect these marginalized communities. Threats include toxins which affect soil, water, and air quality, the impact on human health and state and federal environmental justice policies.

A. *Grassroots / Advocacy Initiatives*
Michele Roberts
Environmental Justice Health Alliance

B. *Environmental Policy Law*
Jacqueline Patterson
Environmental and Justice Climate Programs for the NAACP



Since 1990, **Ms. Michele Roberts** has provided technical assistance and advocacy support to communities regarding the impacts of toxins on human health and the environment Roberts has co-authored reports on environmental justice issues, and her advocacy work has been featured on television and in print news and magazine.



Jacqueline Patterson is the Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007 Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. Jacqui Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, and environmental and climate justice.

12 Noon Lunch (on site)

1:15 – 2:15 Video and Lecture/Dialogue
Black Church Green Church: The essentials of a green gospel for the Black Church.
Speakers: Rev. Dr. Ambrose Carroll and Rev. M. Dele

2:15 – 2:45 Question and Answer

3:00 Roundtable Discussion

5:00 Dinner on your own

6:30 STVU Community Formation
Speaker: Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr.

7:30 Video presentation and Discussion

Saturday, May 20th

8:30 STVU Chapel
Engaging Nations in the Service of Creation
Sermon: Richard Cizik
President, New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good

9:40 Interview with Richard Cizik
Global Response to the Climate Crisis - Headlines in the news touting the success of the Paris Agreement and the follow-up conference in Marrakesh, Morocco left many of us confused. An interview with an attendee of both conferences will share his experiences and insights.



Richard Cizik is the President of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, a faith-based organization committed to an agenda that fosters values consistent with an open and free society. Cizik has been a leader in bringing evangelicals, scholars, and policy-makers together in the search for common ground on a host of national and international challenges, including climate change, civil liberties, economic justice, and national security. In 2008 he was named to TIME Magazine's list of "TIME 100" most influential people.

11:30 Closing Ceremony with Dean Kinney

12 Noon Box Lunch