

2012



# FIRST ANNUAL URBAN MINISTRY INITIATIVE SYMPOSIUM

## Transformation of our society: **Beyond the Bars and the Barriers**

Presented by the Urban Ministry Initiative

Friday, April 27, 2012

8:45 am-12:30 pm, followed by lunch

**Wesley Theological Seminary**  
**4500 Massachusetts Avenue, NW,**  
**Elderdice Room,**  
**Washington, DC 20016**

Shalom is nothing short of total transformation of our society, and it is our responsibility to take up this work. Dr. King put it this way, "We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men [and women] willing to be co-workers with God". Our work in the area of transformation of our current system of retribution and incarceration is rooted in this same belief. The goal of this symposium is to identify and develop an ongoing space for seminaries and the communities, to collaborate in a growing movement toward a more fair and equitable system of justice.

8:30 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Smith, Professor of Urban Ministry at the Wesley Theology Seminary

9:15 am Panel 1: **Reforming the System**: Establishing Networks of Services Providers-how can the Washington's Faith Community and the public/private sector collaborates to make a different. Panelist: Mark O'Brien (Criminal Justice Policy Associate, Legal Action Center), **Professor Darren Hutchinson (American University Washington College of Law), Adjunct Professor Maryam Ahranjani (Asso. Dir., Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Dr. James Shopshire (Professor of the Sociology of Religion)**

Moderator:

10:15 am Panel 2: **Reentry and Equal Rights for all**: Employment and Housing, Establishing Mentoring relationships, Explore successful models of restorative justice, Identify partners to build coalition, Identifying Funding Opportunities

Panelist: Elijah Moses (Marion Shadd Education Center), Dyana Forester (Organizer, DC Jobs with Justice, **Charles Thornton, Director of DC Mayor's Office in Returning Citizens Affairs, Rev. Kelly Wilkins, Courtney Stewart; Debra Rowe (CSOSA)**

Moderator:

11:15 am **Questions from the audience**

11:45 am **Closing Remarks**

12:30 pm Lunch: View the Road to Reform & Rehabilitation: A short film about DC and its most-disconnected youth

*Registration is free but required. Please email: [artinmedc@gmail.com](mailto:artinmedc@gmail.com) to RSVP. For further information, please contact: Vanessa Anthony on 202-486-2380*

Page 1

