

Preconvention Institute—Thursday, November 17, 2016—9:00am-4:00pm (6.0 CEU)

**Presenters: Jacqueline Dyer, Kathy Purnell
& Kesslyn Brade Stennis**

Session Facilitator: Linda Darrell

**Title: “The Intersection of Faith and Racial Justice:
Addressing Race and Diversity from a Christian Social Work
Perspective”**

Abstract: This preconvention institute will be presented by members of NACSW's *Racial Justice Member Interest Group*, coordinated by Dr. Linda Darrell. This session will feature a powerful experiential component, designed to engage participants in a process of racial justice/injustice education and deep reflection. This session is designed to create a safe space for activating transformative conversations about race and justice.

Outline: Topics to be addressed and timeline within the presentation.

1. Welcome & Introduction—*How We Got Here & Where We Are Going* (10 min)
 - a. Dr. Linda Darrell
 - b. Dr. Rick Chamiec-Case
2. Labels & Biases: *Exploring Faith, Race & Diversity* (30 minutes)
 - a. Dr. Kesslyn Brade Stennis
 - b. Dr. Kathy G. Purnell
3. Gaining Experience: *Visiting the Cultural Center* (30 minutes)
4. Courageous Conversations: World Café: *Examining and expanding world views related to diversity and difference* (2 hours)
 - a. Dr. Kathy Purnell
 - b. Dr. Kesslyn Brade Stennis
5. Dining & Group Reflection: *Developing strategies which utilize strengths and address barriers* (1.5 hour)
 - a. Group Participants w/ determined facilitators
 - b. Dr. Jacqueline Dyer
 - c. Dr. Linda Darrell
6. Shifting Gears: *Engaging in a discussion & final activity on personal transitions and cultural awareness* (1 hour)
 - a. Dr. Kathy G. Purnell
 - b. Dr. Kesslyn Brade
7. Closing Thoughts & Reflections: *Symbols of Peace & Commitment* (30 minutes)
 - a. Dr. Linda Darrell
 - i. *Exploring Faith, Race & Diversity*

- ii. *Examining and expanding world views related to diversity and difference*
- iii. *Developing strategies which utilize strengths and address barriers*
- iv. *Engaging in a discussion & final activity on personal transitions and cultural awareness*

Learning Objectives: *As a result of this presentation participants will be able to:*

- Demonstrate an increased comfort with difference between individuals and groups of individuals
- Describe how difference between individuals and groups of individuals can make a positive contribution to our society
- Articulate how to identify and engage with the strengths and assets of individuals and groups who are different than I am in terms of race and diversity

Primary Audience: social work practitioners; students; clergy; and human services workers seeking change in their racial and diversity perspectives

Content Level: Basic/Intermediate

Number of Continuing Education Contact Hours: 6.0

Bio Information: **Jacqueline Dyer**, PhD, MSW, LICSW, is Director of In-Ministry Programs at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary-Boston, and oversees the MA in Counseling license and non-license track programs. She is an early career researcher whose interest is clergy compassion fatigue and domestic violence in faith communities. Dr. Dyer has provided clinical supervision in secular and Christian communities.

Dr Kathyanne Goodridge Purnell, PhD, MSW, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Her research interests include strategies to develop cultural competency initiatives for health professionals, Social Workers/ Educators and students and capturing the narratives of diverse populations to enhance cultural awareness and cultural humility. Dr. Purnell has presented and published (collectively) on the topic of cultural competence in the helping, healing, teaching and research process. She has taught in higher education for the past 12 years, and was instrumental in the re-creation and re-accreditation of the undergraduate social work program at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. Dr. Purnell has a way of approaching sensitive topics (using groups) in a calm, reflective, and creative manner. She also integrates a little humor and storytelling into the process. She is married to Franklin, has three children, and hosts an international student from Mali.

Dr Kesslyn Brade Stennis received her Master of Social Work degree from The Ohio State University and a Doctorate of Philosophy Degree as well as Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University. Dr. Brade Stennis has served in various roles at agencies and universities including Bowie State University (Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work), Oakwood College in Huntsville, AL (Admissions Counselor,

Therapist/Program Director, Assistant Professor); The Department of Mental Health in Washington, DC (Community Crisis Counselor/Outreach Worker); Howard University in Washington, DC (Residence Hall Director); Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD (Adjunct Professor); Loyola University of Maryland in Columbia, MD (Affiliate Professor); and Georgetown University in Washington, DC (Affiliate Professor and Director of the Georgetown University Gospel Choir).

She has been a social work educator for over 15 years, and currently serves an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Social Work at Coppin State University and as Protestant Chaplain at Georgetown University. Throughout her years in the academy, Dr. Brade Stennis has published single-author and multiple-author articles in peer-reviewed journals and public interest magazines. Her areas of research include intimate partner violence, women's issues, faith communities and cultural competence. Dr. Brade Stennis served as the Co-Principal Investigator for the U.S. Department for Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families, Training Grant Stipends in Domestic Violence for Historically Black, Hispanic-serving and Tribal Colleges and Universities from 1998-2002, and as a Consultant for the National Institute of Health and Oakwood College Domestic Violence Training Pilot Study Grant in 2004. She has also served as a researcher on domestic violence, sexual assault and victims of crimes grants through Georgetown University, the District Association for Safe Housing Program and Howard University.

Dr. Brade Stennis is also an active member of civic organizations and faith communities. She is a member of the Board of Directors for The North American Association of Christians in Social Work, where she is active in recruiting and mentoring young leaders. She also serves as the Co-Chair and Workshop Coordinator for the 2014 Annual Conference. In addition, she is an ordained Elder and has served as Music Director, Minister to Youth and Minister to Women in various faith communities. Finally, she is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer with The PhD Consultants, a division of Kesslyn Enterprises, LLC. Through The PhD Consultants, Dr. Brade Stennis and a team of highly regarded colleagues deliver unparalleled guidance to doctoral students by assisting them from "concept to completion." Most importantly, she is a wife, mother and servant leader in her faith community.

Linda Darrell, PhD, LCSW-C is an Assistant Professor in the MSW program at Morgan State University. Prof. Darrell hones her clinical skills as a clinician in the emergency dept. at a large tertiary care facility where her sensitivity to the concerns impacting members of disenfranchised communities are at the forefront of her work. Prof. Darrell is a licensed minister in her church where she ministers to the bereaved individuals and families.