

## Convention 2019 Roundtable Trainer Bios

**Amy Mitchell**, MSW, LMHP-S is a therapist with Diamond Healthcare, provider of behavioral health services to Valley Health hospital system in Winchester, Virginia via their intensive outpatient (IOP) grouptherapy program for adults 18 - 54 and seniors 55 and up. Amy is also an online adjunct professor teaching social work with Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA. She is in her 2nd year of the PhD in Social Work program at the Catholic University of America. Amy is married to the Rev. Peter Mitchell, an Anglican priest and pastor of a house church, All Souls Anglican in Woodstock, VA. All Souls is one of the host churches for the local affiliate of a national program for families who are temporarily homeless, Family Promise. Amy and Peter have 4 children, two sets of boy-girl twins ages 14 and 11.

**Dr. Kesslyn Brade Stennis** serves as the current Chair of the Department of Social Work and Director of the Dr. Dorothy I. Height Center for the Advancement of Social Justice at Coppin State University. She is also CEO of Kesslyn Enterprises, LLC which is the parent company of The PhD Consultants. Kesslyn holds a PhD in Social Work, a M.Div. and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from Howard University and a Master of Social Work degree from The Ohio State University. She is the immediate Past President of the NACSW Board of Directors, and has served as a social worker and social work educator, minister of music, Protestant Chaplain at Georgetown University, editorial consultant for various journals and educational entrepreneur. She has conducted numerous research projects and community service initiatives that connect her interests in social justice with Black Churches, African American Clergy, gentrification, women of color and youth and domestic violence. More than anything, she is a wife and mother.

**Cini Bretzlaff-Holstein**, DSW, LSW is the BSW Program Director, Social Work Department Chair, and Associate Professor of Social Work at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. She completed her Doctor of Social Work (DSW) degree at St. Catherine University-University of St. Thomas School of Social Work in St. Paul, MN. Cini completed her Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at Baylor University Diana R. Garland School of Social Work in Waco, TX. She has taught at Trinity Christian College since 2008. Before concentrating her career on social work education, Cini spent six years working in the field of social work in a variety of areas, such as child welfare, residential youth services, community development, and program development. Her scholarly interests include food justice, ecological justice, social work education & humane education, and the human-animal bond in social work. She lives with her husband and their 4 furry children (2 rescue dogs & 2 rescue cats) in Kankakee.

Kim Parker is a wife, mom of three, author, and therapist from Houston, TX. She obtained her MSW in 1998 and LCSW in 2003. She has worked at community mental health centers, a homeless shelter, and spent seven years working with children in foster care prior to starting her private practice in 2009. Kim relies on her deep Christian faith to overcome life's troubles. This faith also drives her passion to help clients holistically, not just socially or politically.

**Helen Wilson Harris**, Ed.D., LCSW is an Associate Professor at the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University where she has served for the past twenty-one years as a lecturer, field education director, and now tenured professor. Dr. Harris teaches courses in clinical social work practice, trauma, loss and mourning, research, and capstone. She does research and writing in grief and cognition, the integration of faith and social work practice, and is certainly engaged in a study of congregational discernment. An adoptive parent, she has also published with her daughter and her daughter's birth family on adoption reunion.

**David A. Sherwood**, Ph.D., LICSW, ACSW. Dr. Sherwood received his MA in literature from Vanderbilt University, his MSS from Bryn Mawr, and his Ph.D. in social work from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a social work educator for 35 years, helping to start BSW programs at Oral Roberts University and Gordon College and MSW programs at Roberts Wesleyan College and Baylor University. He served two terms as a Commissioner on the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation and was a site visitor for many years. He is a former president of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work and served as Editor of the Association's journal *Social Work & Christianity* for 34 years.

**Denis Costello** MSW, RSW, Executive Director, Catholic Family Services of Toronto. I have worked for 26 years at our Agency, both as a front-line therapist, then as a clinical director, and more recently as executive director. Prior to coming to the Agency, I worked in a variety of roles both in community and hospitals. I believe that the thread that runs through my career is the deep pleasure I get from working with people, no matter what my role is. I have been honoured by so many people sharing part of their journey with me. Sometimes the meeting is prompted by a crisis of some sort, at other times our meeting comes from more subtle and hidden forces. At all times I am challenged to truly attend to the other, not an easy task.

**Regina Chow Trammel**, Ph.D., LCSW, is an assistant professor in the MSW program at Azusa Pacific University. She has spent more than a decade in private practice in the Chicago area, as well as experience in psychiatric and medical social work settings. She is an avid mindfulness practitioner and researcher.

**Kristen Nielsen Donnelly** is the Executive Vice President of Abbey Research, which conducts bespoke research projects for small businesses and non-profits focusing on cultural competency and emotional intelligence. She holds a MSW from the Diana Garland School of Social Work and a M.Div from George W. Truett Theological Seminary, both at Baylor University, and a PhD from Queen's University Belfast, where she researched the silencing of women in religiously Protestant spaces. Kristen has been working with teams for over two

decades in a variety of contexts and capacities. She currently lives outside Philadelphia with her husband, where they are surrounded by piles of books and various video game consoles.

**Allison Tan**, MSSA, PhD is currently an assistant professor of social work at Trinity Christian College. Prior to academia, she worked for nearly a decade in the areas of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse as well as Christian community development. Her research interests and attention have centered on the intersections and tensions between LGBT issues and the Christian community. She currently serves as the President of the NACSW Board.