

LEADERS OF PPMW-RCRC CEREMONY
January 10, 2017

The Rev. Dr. Christine Y. Wiley

Rev. Dr. Christine Y. Wiley serves as co-pastor with her husband, Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Wiley, at the Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ on South Capital Street in Washington, a radically inclusive congregation committed to social justice and the beloved community.

Rev. Dr. Christine Wiley is actively involved in the struggle for justice for all people. Her leadership roles include Vice-President of the Mayor's Religious Affairs Committee, member of the Mayor's HIV/AIDS Commission, and board member of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ. She is a member of both the Executive Committee and the Strategy Leadership Team of the Washington Interfaith Network and is a recent Co-Chair of DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality.

Dr. Wiley was licensed to the gospel ministry in 1983 and ordained in 1986. She holds degrees from Garrett Evangelical Seminary, Howard University and its School of Divinity.

The Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Wiley

Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Wiley, a distinguished theologian and civic activist, serves as co-pastor with his wife, Rev. Dr. Christine Y. Wiley, at the Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ on South Capital Street in Washington. The church is a radically inclusive congregation committed to social justice and the beloved community.

As a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Society for the Study of Black Religion, Dr. Wiley has published and spoken widely. He currently serves on the Executive Board of the Black Religious Scholars Group.

Rev. Dr. Wiley is in the forefront of the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality for all persons. He is the former co-chair of D.C. Clergy United for Marriage Equality and a former member of the Advisory Council of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion and Faith Program. He is currently a member of the Community Advisory Group of the Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice.

Rev. Dr. Wiley holds degrees from Harvard University, Howard University, and Union Theological Seminary.

Willie J. Parker, M.D.

Willie J. Parker, M.D., is a member of the board of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and a former medical director of Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington. He advocates ardently for reproductive health, rights and justice based on his deep Baptist faith.

Dr. Parker is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist. His religious convictions led him to give up his private medical practice in Chicago to return to the South to provide abortion services in states where few doctors perform these procedures.

He has given medical presentations to the National Abortion Federation and is the board chair of Physicians for Reproductive Health. His views have been covered widely in the news media including *The New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Ebony* and *Mother Jones* magazines. He was also interviewed in *Trapped*, a 2016 documentary about restrictive abortion laws in the states.

Dr. Parker holds degrees from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, the Harvard School of Public Health, the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Michigan.

Rabbi Michael Namath

Rabbi Michael Namath is a board member of PPMW and the Program Director at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington (RAC). The RAC educates and mobilizes the Reform Jewish community on legislative and social concerns, advocating on reproductive issues, religious liberty, civil rights and many other matters. The RAC is a member organization of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Rabbi Namath received his rabbinic ordination from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

Katey Zeh

Katey Zeh, board chair of RCRC, engages communities of faith in advocacy for gender justice in the US and abroad. Ms. Zeh is a strategist, writer and editor based in North Carolina. She brings a theologically grounded, pragmatic approach to social change. The Center for American Progress named Ms. Zeh one of 14 Faith Leaders to Watch in 2014. In 2010, she Zeh launched the first and only denominationally-sponsored advocacy campaign focused on improving global reproductive health for The United Methodist Church.

In December, Ms. Zeh published an article in the *Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer* newspaper offering a legal and moral defense of *Roe v. Wade*. She has also written for such media as the Huffington Post, *Sojourners* and Religion Dispatches.

Ms. Zeh holds a degree from Yale Divinity School.

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson of Scottsdale, Ariz. is a consultant to the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC) who works ecumenically across religious and spiritual traditions in her writing, teaching and consulting. She has served as pastor of congregations in three Christian denominations – UCC, United Methodist Church, and Presbyterian Church-USA.

Rev. Dr. Jackson's work reflects her commitment to using social justice as a resource for spiritual wellness. She is the author of five books including *Still Got Game*, co-authored with Carlton Greene; *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt*; and *For the Souls of Black Folks*.

She holds degrees from Drew University, Union Theological Seminary, the University of Maryland, and Oberlin College.

Batalá Washington

Batalá Washington is an all-women Afro Brazilian Samba Reggae band which empowers women through drumming and celebrating Brazil's Afro Bahian culture. The band in Washington is part of a larger family of 30 Batalá bands around the world created in 1997 by Giba Gonçalves of Brazil. In 2007, this Washington band was formed, expanding the reach of the band's music to the United States.