

**MASS INCARCERATION:
INCREASING AWARENESS, DETERMINING NEXT STEPS**

A Denominational Meeting of the Reformed Church in America

March 10-11, 2017

Chicago IL

Goals:

1. To increase awareness about the causes and results of mass incarceration.
2. To network and build relationships with people who are passionate about addressing mass incarceration.
3. To make next-step and strategic decisions about what meeting participants and congregations can do to address mass incarceration.

Agenda for March 10. 4pm to 8pm.

Section	Themes	Speakers/Facilitators
1	Welcome	Earl James
2	Short video on mass incarceration	Earl James
3	RCA vision of incarceration practices impacted by God's values & a hope for this conference	Dr. Tom De Vries, RCA General Secretary
4	Overview of the Criminal Justice System	Rev. Lindsay Bona
5	Overview of politics, policies and laws that created and sustain mass incarceration	Earl James
6	Dinner	
7	Panel of speakers – Personal Stories and Making Differences	Colby Thompson, Andre Centeno and Richard Braceful
8	Closing Prayer	Rev. Patricia Sealy

Agenda for March 11. 8:30am to 4pm.

Section	Themes	Speakers/Facilitators
9	Opening prayer, highlights of March 10 & agenda for March 11	Lindsay Bona
10	Purposes of the criminal justice system and a faith framework for the church's response of retribution vs restoration	Charles Wingrove and Allison Colberg
11	Lunch	
12	How incarceration affects families and children	Rev. Patricia Sealy and Dr. Nkechye Ekere Ezech
13	Panel of speakers – Personal stories and post-release challenges	Pamela Strey, Henry Cherry, Darrell Morey and Ferman Sims II
14	Pathways for meeting participants & congregations to engage mass incarceration	Elizabeth Bingham, Dr. Dawn Ravella, Marybeth Apple-Sims, Rev. Terry Troia, facilitated by Rev. Lindsay Bona and Earl James
15	Next steps going forward. Focus on the participants	Rev. Lindsay Bona and Earl James
16	Closing statements and prayer	Rev. Patricia Sealy

On behalf of the Reformed Church in America, thank you very much for participating in this denominational meeting on mass incarceration. We look forward to taking both next and strategic steps with you as the hands and feet of Jesus to bring more of the Kingdom of God to the area of mass incarceration.

Please contact us at advocacy@rca.org for further resourcing and joint actions!

The Planning Team:

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