

# ODYSSEY IMPACT<sup>®</sup>

RISING THROUGH  
CRISIS



**Thank you Lilly Endowment Inc. for your support to empower faith leaders with programs to lead thriving communities, and for media resources for self-care and renewal in their leadership.**

As a proud grantee of Lilly Endowment Inc., we herald their 2020 Annual Report, which leads the Religion section with the very relevant message:

“The Times They Are A-Changin’”

*Shifting demographics and social disruptions move congregations to explore how to remain relevant and serve their communities.*



**Lilly Endowment Inc.**  
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*Proudly supporting Odyssey Impact’s programs to empower faith leaders and build thriving congregations:*

- OnScripture*
- Call on Faith*
- Social Impact Engagement Campaigns*
- “Healing the Healers”*

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## Letter From Nick Stuart, President and CEO

Our world teetered on the brink in a year none of us will ever forget. Preserving connection in isolation is something we all had to face in 2020. Our challenge at Odyssey Impact was finding new ways to help people as they faced fear, anger and hate. With your help, the help of our partners, we brought new hope, new connections and new ways to tell the stories that lift and heal.

No amount of training could prepare people for what they had to face in 2020. I'm proud that Odyssey Impact helped connect people during this challenging time, so they weren't alone. Through our digital production experience, we quickly brought people together in virtual Town Halls to share coping and support mechanisms for our careers. First, to hospital chaplains, then to prison chaplains, congregational ministers and those working in intimate partner violence.

Connections are the bedrock of our existence. Without them, fear and misunderstanding creep in. Storytelling is such a powerful way to connect across divides, and with the increase in hate crimes further destabilizing our country in 2020, our documentary "Stranger/Sister" was able to tell the story of how Jewish and Muslim women reached out across the divide to support each other. Not hate, but love between those who may think differently.

There is no way back from the brink if we can't connect with each other. The murder of George Floyd forced not just America, but the world, to address ways to bridge the ever-increasing gap between us and those who look or believe or vote differently from us.

Through the stories we tell, the films we make and the impact campaigns we run, we catalyze action through partnerships that bridge those gaps, bringing people together over a common cause at the grassroots and national levels.

It was hard in 2020 — harder than it has ever been — but with your help, our partners, storytellers and friends, we built connections in an isolated world. Think about what we can do together as the world opens up.

Peace and blessings,

## Rising Through Crisis by Gathering and Connecting

Faith and film share a common purpose: to gather people in one place. For faith leaders, gathering builds a community thriving together through shared faith. For film, gathering around a story helps create awareness about issues and lives different from one's own.

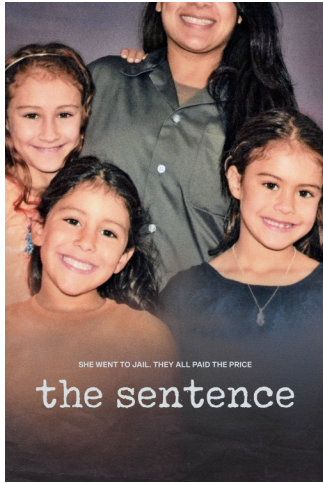
Our faith and film gatherings started in 2020 with promise. The Odyssey Fellows program, which partners with educational institutions to equip emerging faith leaders to engage in complex civic issues, began recruiting the class of 2021. The program engages issues of racial inequity, domestic violence, and mass incarceration, leveraging the power of film to connect outside the walls of their respective faith. Although the global pandemic halted the program's recruitment, it is a prime example of how faith and film transform lives and create a more compassionate world.



*Peachtree Road United Methodist Church and Candler School of Theology are led by two Odyssey Fellows to discuss collaborations around race and mass incarceration within their congregational contexts, utilizing documentary film resources to inspire gathering.*







“The Sentence,” a powerful documentary by HBO, and a national social impact campaign by Odyssey Impact, was screened in the Connecticut State Capitol Building in partnership with Color Of Change, Worth Rises, Working Families Party, and CT Children with Incarcerated Parents. The documentary takes a searing look at the consequences of mandatory minimum sentencing laws. It tells the story of Cindy Shark, a mother of three who received a 15-year mandatory sentence related to charges with her ex-boyfriend. The film follows her brother and her three very young children as they fight to get the Obama Administration to grant her clemency.



The new Director of Diversity, Inclusion & Multicultural Impact, Jenise Ogle, attended a screening for “The Rape of Recy Taylor” for the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Atlantic Region.

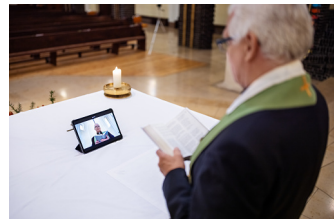


Zeta Phi Beta was founded on the campus of Howard University and serves to empower people from all walks of life. This screening inspired other chapter screenings throughout 2020.

Partners in faith and film began gathering, planning the year while focused on helping each other, unaware that these moments would be the last physical connections for almost a year.



## The Nation Stays Home — Gatherings Move Online



## Learning to Gather and Connect Online: Live Town Halls



The first challenge for Odyssey Impact to solve in 2020 was gathering and connecting safely. In April 2020, over 600 chaplains, faith leaders, and educators gathered for Odyssey Impact’s first live Town Hall. Odyssey Impact producers focused on our “Healing the Healers” series. Leading chaplains and pastoral theologians discussed the particular challenges facing those who provide spiritual care in health care settings and some of the solutions for moral dilemmas facing spiritual caregivers. Rev. Dr. Katie Givens Kime, Director of Religion and Civic Engagement at Odyssey Impact, and Michael Skaggs, Executive Director, Chaplaincy Innovation Lab, led the thoughtful conversation with chaplaincy practitioners and educators with expertise and lived experience in communal trauma, moral injury, moral anxiety, and moral dilemmas in the context of spiritual care.

### Testimonials from our Town Hall Participants:

“A ministry of presence is so important now more than ever, even with social distancing.”

— Cantor Michael Shochet, Senior Clergy, Temple Rodef Shalom

“Feeling so grateful for this opportunity. I am a solo chaplain for a 104-bed state psychiatric facility in Wyoming. Becoming increasingly aware of my need to check-in and find spiritual care for myself if I am to provide care for both patients and staff here.”

— Cynthia Walker

“Thank you so much for hosting this moment for us to connect and feel supported; for the leadership. Thank you, all.”

— Jiaying Ding

“I am reflecting more on theologies of common good. This is a paradigm shift, of sorts, for healthcare. From a patient care focus to community-centered focus. Not that healthcare systems don’t focus on community health, but this asks us to reflect in a new way.”

— Anita Fischer

“I am a Presbyterian Pastor (doing pastoral care by phone mostly, worship by Facebook Live and Zoom Meetings and coffee hookups) as well as Hospice Chaplain. Attended a death last night where I held a prayer vigil outside of a nursing facility and offered my presence under the night sky.”

— Denise Shannon




# Healing the Healers launches the Inaugural Live Town Hall

Spiritual/Moral Dilemmas in COVID-19: How Might Spiritual Care Help?


Presented with Chaplaincy Innovation Lab




## PANELISTS




**STEPHANIE CRUMPTON,**  
Associate Professor  
of Practical Theology  
McCormick Theological  
Seminary, Chicago, IL



**CARRIE DOEHRING,**  
Clifford Baldrige Professor  
of Pastoral Care & Counseling  
Iliff School of Theology  
Denver, CO




**ZACHARY MOON,**  
Assistant Professor  
of Practical Theology  
Chicago Theological  
Seminary, Chicago IL




**MICHAEL SHOCHET,**  
Senior Clergy  
Temple Rodef Shalom,  
Falls Church, VA

### Panel Moderators:



**Rev. Dr. Katie Givens Kime**  
Director of Religion and Civic Engagement  
Odyssey Impact



**Dr. Michael Skaggs**  
Executive Director  
Chaplaincy Innovation Lab

Healing the Healers is a Gold Telly Award-winning multimedia video resource collection showcasing intimate peer-to-peer conversations with exceptional faith leaders on issues of crisis and trauma to be used in classroom curriculums, as congregational tools, and for self learning. Each video and accompanying expert guide offers strategies and insight to educate and prepare current and emerging faith leaders in how to address challenging issues.



# Chaplains and Acute Moral Stress

Acute moral stress, arising from conflicting core values, may over time develop into moral injury, especially when the life threat of coronavirus makes people feel betrayed by leaders, or makes them take actions that could harm themselves or others. Our beliefs and values about suffering generate moral stress. These beliefs and values about suffering are being tested, especially when they generate moral stress. For example, when our core values as healers are to protect life and do no harm, and we cannot provide care in ways that compromise the health of others or our health. Many healers are also caring for children at home or elderly parents. Core values about family responsibilities may be in conflict with providing professional care.

How do our beliefs and values about suffering intensify these moral struggles, especially if guilt and shame isolate people? What beliefs and values about suffering are emerging for us, especially when we can connect with goodness within ourselves and in humanity? Are there trusted others (authors and conversation partners) who help us search for meanings?

— Rev. Dr. Carrie Doehring, Clifford Baldrige Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Iliff School of Theology



# Movement Chaplaincy: Meeting Spiritual Needs in our Movements for Justice — A Live Town Hall



## The Issue of Mass Incarceration did not Go Away During the Pandemic

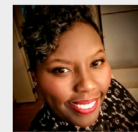
Prison Chaplains from across the country attended a live Town Hall to learn, reflect and support each other. We gathered chaplain colleagues working in various correctional contexts, including private, federal, state, county, men's and women's, juvenile, and adult facilities for a critical conversation on providing care and hope during the pandemic.



Chaplain Zeynab Abdullayeva  
Albion Correctional Facility  
New York



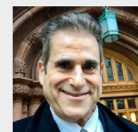
Dr. Rachelle Green  
Fordham University  
New York



Rev. Lillian Hines  
Northern State Prison  
New Jersey



Rev. Ulli Klemm  
Religious Services Administrator  
Pennsylvania Dept. of Corrections  
Pennsylvania



Rabbi Dr. Shaul Marshall Praver  
Cheshire Correctional Institute  
Connecticut

***“What I think COVID is doing is, it’s making a wider network of us aware of the need for more resources inside to handle these issues.” — Dr. Rachelle Green, Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Education, Fordham University***

In our free written resource for Prison Chaplains, Dr. Green reflected that death and grief are natural phenomena in the human experience, but grieving in prison during a pandemic presents a different set of challenges.

Consider what it might be like for persons living and working in prisons and jails where social distancing is not possible, PPE resources are scarce, and testing may be sporadic at best. As anxiety increases concerning one’s own health, imagine the concern and stress of not knowing if the death notices from the chaplain are going to be about your family member. Imagine the trauma. Imagine the grief. And now imagine it magnified. COVID-19 has made the process of protecting life and grieving death more challenging for everyone, especially for persons living and working in prisons. Our

speakers remind us that grief counseling, communal support, and recognition of pain and anxiety will be needed in prisons far beyond the day when COVID-19 is no longer considered a pandemic. What resources and practices have been helpful to you as you navigate grief? How might you or your community be able to partner with correctional institutions to share those resources with persons living and working in prisons? How might you advocate for increased counseling and care for incarcerated persons?

Virtual town hall gatherings this past year that were focused on different aspects of ending mass incarceration not only brought together a wide variety of current and potential players in this field, but they also helped build new connections that can lead to greater, collective impact. “Trapped: Cash Bail in America” has been a provocative tool that is catalyzing increased visibility for this critical human rights and justice issue. Members of the EMI (End Mass Incarceration) network have used the film as a tool for increasing the engagement of local faith communities in the fight to end mass incarceration. We are proud that Odyssey is now a core partner with the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church and The Temple in leading EMI as we catalyze the increased engagement of faith communities in this critical issue.

— Rev. John H. Vaughn, Executive Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

# I Can't Breathe: Rising to Connect on Racial Injustice



On May 25th, 2020, a brave young woman filmed the murder of George Floyd and changed the narrative on racial justice forever. As a result, the fight for Black lives was elevated, and the country was forced to confront racial injustice in unflinching and brutally honest ways.

“I... Can't... Breathe...” The words and the pictures of the last moments of George Floyd’s life as it ebbs away beneath the knee of a police officer — charged to protect and serve — haunt me as they will haunt you. They enrage me as they will enrage you. And yet, they energize me as they must energize you.

We all stand in unwavering solidarity with the Black community in demanding racial justice.

Now, especially as our fellow staff members of color, in particular, face continued systemic trauma, we find these days to be of even more importance. I can only imagine the brunt of the weight held in balancing the onslaught of violence against Black people and the daily challenges of working, parenting, and simply existing amongst COVID-19 and more. I am also aware that this emotional load to carry existed before the headlines of the week.

We will continue to honor and acknowledge these moments in the films we make and the campaigns we run. We believe that #BlackLivesMatter and we

know that we and our network of faith leaders and changemakers believe this to be self-evidently true. I and my colleagues at Odyssey Impact are here to lift up your voices, events, messages, and prayers in the face of this violation of humanity. As people of faith, we are called to be catalysts for truth and justice.

I pledge that Odyssey Impact will continue to lift up the films and stories that will shake our nation and root out systemic racism. I pledge that through our impact campaigns we will lift up the work you do. Together, we will work to create a culture where hate and discrimination have no place.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “We can do no other.”

— Nick Stuart, President and CEO Odyssey Impact and Transform Films

*“When all of God’s children can finally breathe free  
We can celebrate being a true democracy.  
Imagine the joy and delight we will share  
When we recover the oneness already there.”*  
— excerpt from “Ode to Juneteenth” by Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.



# Connecting Through the Word — Preaching During Crisis



An extraordinary live Town Hall gathered preaching colleagues from across the country for a critical conversation on theological frames and homiletical strategies during these unprecedented and compounding crises: pandemic, racial injustice, economic fallout, and escalating pastoral care needs.

“Preaching During Crisis: Igniting Pastoral Imagination in the Face of Fatigue, Injustice, and Collective Trauma” featured experts with a long history of navigating the space of faith and racial justice.



**Rev. Matt Fitzgerald**  
Senior Pastor  
Saint Pauls United Church of Christ  
Chicago, IL



**Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr.**  
Senior Pastor Emeritus  
Riverside Church  
New York  
Founder  
Healing of the Nations Foundation  
North Carolina



**Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.**  
Senior Minister  
Public Theology and Transformation  
Middle Collegiate Church  
New York



**Rev. Mandy Sloan McDow**  
Senior Minister  
Los Angeles First United Methodist Church  
Los Angeles, CA



**Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart**  
Senior Pastor  
Christ Missionary Baptist Church  
Memphis, TN

*I think most of us who are progressive like to believe that in times of crisis we are called upon to be “answer men and women,” to answer the questions implied in the existential situation. I would like to pose another option that we have, which we probably might use more. In the very beginning when the Lord God came walking to the garden, God raised the question, “Adam and Eve, where art thou?” So, the whole question is, how do we use the interrogative as an important part of preaching?*

*How can we allow God in our preaching to ask questions of our people about where they are?*

*For one Sunday, leave your community hearing the question that God poses to us and have them grapple with maybe what they think their answers are. Allow them to dig more deeply, to*

*discover what the real answer is from the depths of their soul. As preachers, I believe we lighten our sails up a little bit if we don't think we have to answer all of the imponderables to make the inscrutable scrutable every Sunday.*

*One answer we all have is the ability to let God put into your mind somebody you should call with the word of cheer or encouragement, especially during these times. It's amazing that you might actually be used as an instrument of deliverance, of hope and of healing. So, keep your ears open. Call and see what God will do with it.*

**— Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr. Senior Pastor Emeritus, Riverside Church, New York and Founder, Healing of the Nations Foundation, North Carolina**

# Empowering our Young Faith Leaders with Film



Odyssey Impact's Young Adult Initiative, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., created an opportunity for young Christian preachers to explore pressing issues facing our country and develop unique tools to connect to their community through film. A live town hall discussed how youth in the Christian Church can show up to help lead the work of anti-racism in society and equitable policing in Black and Brown communities.

**Christina Jones (Woodbridge, VA) and Shakisha Morgan (Lanham, MD)** used the power of story and the documentary, “The Rape of Recy Taylor,” in a podcast, at the townhall, and in a devotional.

**Rev. Lauren Bennett (St. Louis, MO)** used the documentary “MILWAUKEE 53206” in a town hall and created a blog with an online study guide.

**Sandy Jerez Poveda (Bronx, NY)** used the documentary, “Run for His Life” in a blog posting, a watch event, and a short video.

**Rev. Omari Hughes (Laurel, MD)** used the documentary “Trapped: Cash Bail in America” for a watch party and dedicated bible study.

**Laurel Alice Capesius (Los Angeles, CA)** used the documentary “Stranger/Sister” for an online study guide.



**SHAKISHA A. MORGAN**



**CHRISTINA M. JONES**



**REV. LAUREN BENNETT**



**REV. OMARI K. HUGHES**



**SANDY JEREZ POVEDA**



**LAUREL ALICE CAPESIUS**

# Measuring Impact — One Connection at a Time



Before COVID-19 separated the nation, Odyssey Impact was driving connections through social impact campaigns, building awareness of racial and social injustices, and empowering changemakers in communities, and nationally, with tools to help move awareness to a shift in attitudes, ultimately driving actionable results. There is no greater success story than that of Mr. Baron Walker, a man reunited with his family. Mr. Walker was featured in “MILWAUKEE 53206,” a film by Keith McQuiter, produced by Transform Films, with a social impact campaign by Odyssey Impact. He was caught in the changing sentencing laws, remaining in prison long after paying his debt to society. He was released when an attorney saw the documentary and took on his case. That is just the beginning of this incredible story. His wife, Beverly Walker, remained by his side during his full sentence, and the joy of their reunion is best conveyed in their own words:

## Our Story! By Beverly and Baron Walker

*Beverly Walker: My husband and I met when we were just kids, we lived next door to each other for several years. Our relationship started as neighbors, then we became friends, then best friends, we became girlfriend and boyfriend, we became an engaged couple and finally, Baron and I got married.*

*When we were teenagers there was a shooting in the neighborhood. I called Baron to tell him about it, but before I could say anything else, Baron was outside ushering me upstairs to safety. One of the bullets made it through the door, that bullet hit both of us. I got hit in the shoulder and Baron was hit in the leg by the same bullet. If it was not for Baron saving my life, I might not be here today.*

*When Baron made a mistake and went to jail, I stood by my husband's side. Our family served his prison sentence with him. It was hard raising our children as a single parent but my husband was worth the wait and the sacrifice. The vows we made before God helped us stay steadfast. We've had our ups and downs throughout our relationship, like any other couple. We sincerely love and support each other. Life with him on the inside was lonely, but by the Grace of God Baron is now home and the burden is much lighter and our family has finally been restored.*

*Baron Walker: It has definitely been a wonderful blessing to finally be home. It has been a long fight, well worth it. My beautiful wife, our children. Our parents, siblings, and so many lovely loving friends. My Attorney Craig has proven to be a dear friend of great value. I appreciate these blessings our Creator has bestowed upon me. This probably would cause you to assume that it is easier for me to forget my past hardships, or not want to have such a presence of mind. It is these very things that inspire me, and won't allow me to easily forget about those who likewise shared*

*my burden of injustice. Thus, this has become an agenda for our family.*

*Since being home, I have worked with my wife, who continues to work with WISDOM. We took part in many meetings. Being informed on issues concerning mass incarceration, Old Law people, crimeless revocation, and the affected community directly/indirectly affected by the ills of conscious/unconscious apathy perpetuated by political agendas.*

*By the direction of Mr. David Liner, I pursued certification for Community Leadership. I have attended concept, goals, and establishment gatherings with the esteemed EXPO, spoke at churches, grade schools, high schools, Marquette University, and ISM Masjid, with other events on the agenda. **My family and I are striving to be the difference in order to make a difference.** This can be done if people in whole care enough. Because when there is a wrong witness, and you choose to say or do nothing, you condone it by approval of silence. I refuse to be silent. Home happy, yet still driven by a cause I'm passionate about.*

*Learn more about Beverly and Baron's journey on their website: [www.familydeferred.com](http://www.familydeferred.com).*



# Connecting Across Extremism — The Election 2020



Faith leaders in a live Town Hall explored how faith communities serve as healing public spaces where people of diverse political and cultural viewpoints can meaningfully dialogue and be in relationships. People want a safe space to voice their opinion without retribution. “Brave spaces” are critical for communities to explore convictions, hear difficult truths, seek guidance, and ideally find connections to work through issues together fully.

The nation was on edge, anticipating a contentious and highly-charged election. Odyssey Impact convened two Town Halls — one before the election and another after — to help prepare faith leaders for what was expected and help guide the healing after the election, understanding the nation was divided, and there would be disappointed fellow citizens.

## PANELISTS



**REV. DR. JAN FULLER**  
University Chaplain, Truitt Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, Elon University, Elon, NC



**RABBI MATTHEW GEWIRTZ**  
Senior Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Short Hills, NJ



**REV. DR. ROBERT SCHENCK**  
President of the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Institute Washington, D.C.



**DR. DANJUMA GIBSON**  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at CalvinTheological Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI



**MODERATOR**  
**REV. DR. KATIE GIVENS KIME**  
Director of Religion and Civic Engagement, Odyssey Impact



**REV. DR. GABRIEL SALGUERO**  
Pastor at The Gathering Place Orlando, FL



## Testimonials from our Town Hall Participants

**“We listen each other into existence.”** — Rev. Dr. Jan Fuller

**“Faith... might be one of the last spaces available in the nation to be a convening space for uncomfortable conversations”** — Rabbi Matthew Gewirtz

**“Faith leaders can help their communities to hold differences differently by helping people to “traffic in honesty.”** — Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, Ph.D.

**“I think the past is not the past for people for whom the past was never acknowledged.”** — Pádraig Ó Tuama, The On Being Project

**“Civility is not the absence of conviction.”** — Rev. Dr. Gabriel Salguero



## Transform Films: Connecting through Story



Odyssey Impact’s affiliated company Transform Films produces award-winning documentaries that provide the basis for social impact campaigns.

Over the past several years, the United States has been experiencing a surge in hate crimes as a tide of white supremacy gathers momentum nationwide. Muslim and Jewish communities are particularly vulnerable. In Fall 2020, the award-winning film “Stranger/Sister” launched a multi-year screening and engagement campaign, working with an exciting list of partners such as The Pluralism Project at Harvard and Southern Poverty Law Center, among many others. This work was spearheaded by Odyssey Impact’s own sister company Transform Films, which produces award-winning documentaries that provide the basis for social impact campaigns.

“Stranger/Sister” is the story of two ordinary women, one Muslim and one Jewish, who dare to believe they can join hands to stop the wave of hate. Overcoming a long history of distrust between their two religions, they build a movement that turns strangers into sisters, challenging our assumptions about how to fight hate in America. The film follows women from Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom chapters in Austin, Chicago, and across the nation, as the Sisters build a resilient network of hope in a time of chaos and hate.

Along with Odyssey Impact, Transform Films continues to work with visionary filmmakers to create documentaries that tell stories of compassion, hope, and the quest for a more just world.

Filmed over the course of three years, Emmy-winning filmmakers, Kirsten Kelly and Katie Taber have worked with Sisters from across the nation to capture this powerful story. In Fall 2020, the film launched a multi-year screenings and engagement campaign, working with a prestigious list of partners such as The Pluralism Project at Harvard and Southern Poverty Law Center, among many others.

“Stranger/Sister” premiered at the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival and has since had a run of festivals and screenings.

## Connecting Online Worked — Because We Did it Together!



A special thank you to  
 the  
**COLLEGIATE CHURCHES**  
 OF NEW YORK  
 Est. 1628

The Benevolence Grant for live town halls convened the experts, educated participants on healing through crisis and connected us!



Thank you to the following funders and partners that help bring all of our stories to the world:



Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund  
 Boom and Gunderson Family Fund  
 Eastman Foundation  
 The Pluralism Project  
 Southern Poverty Law Center

## “Run For His Life” premieres on GQ Sports and wins Gold Telly Award



Odyssey Impact joined REFORM Alliance for a panel moderated by Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker, Founding Curator, Black Millennial Cafe. Panelists included Pete Monsanto Jr., featured in the film “Run For His Life,” and Jessica Jackson, Chief Advocacy Officer of the REFORM Alliance and co-founder of #cut50. These social changemakers advocating for reform discussed the challenges of the criminal justice system.



## DESCENDED FROM THE PROMISED LAND: THE LEGACY OF *Black Wall Street*

### Trust at the Heart of Storytelling

The truth about the Tulsa Race Massacre is that for many generations the families of those who survived and those who did not survive were not given the space to tell their stories. Through “Descended From the Promised Land: The Legacy of Black Wall Street,” we wanted to give the families the opportunity to reclaim their narrative and let them lead in terms of the stories we told, what made it to the screen and what we wanted to confront. There are uncomfortable moments in the film, but these are the moments the families wanted to spotlight in order to correct the inaccurate stories that have been told in Tulsa and the nation for the past 100 years.

This story and so many other stories of massacres were not taught in schools and are rarely talked about in families. The Williams/Crenshaw and Blocker families discuss the importance of sharing the truth of what their family members endured during the Tulsa Race Massacre and beyond, which destroyed their family businesses and cut off their access to generational wealth. These

descendants of the Promised Land, openly ask the question, “What if the massacre never happened, how would our lives have been different?”

Through confronting these really hard truths, the families realized that this was the first step to healing, which allowed them to move forward in many ways. Knowing healing is on the other side of truth makes their stories and confronting their fear worth telling. For them to open up, there needed to be trust in how we told their story. Thankfully, even as we filmed during COVID-19, we were able to build that trust by centering their voices.

In 2021, we now have the words and momentum as a nation to hear their story of legacies interrupted. The end of the film shows Byron and his friends in joyful dance celebrating their future. We have the spirit to speak the truthful narrative and see the change this truth and healing can bring to each of one us.

— Nailah Jefferson, Filmmaker



Behind the scenes



Nicole Ellis (left) and Nailah Jefferson (right) at the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival.

Thank you to the following funders for help in bringing this story to the world:  
**Peter Coha**  
**James L. Gunderson**





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Katie Givens-Kime, Director of Religion and Civic Engagement  
Taylor Green, Salesforce Administrator  
Almira Hoover, Chief Financial Officer  
Liss Hyde, Director of Communications  
Kirsten Kelly, Senior Producer  
Ann O'Leary, Director of Strategy and Advancement  
Jenise Ogle, Impact and Data Strategist  
Juliana Oelkers, Communications Coordinator  
Louis Otero, Screening Strategist  
Nick Stuart, President/CEO

## Inclusion Committee

Rev. Dr. Derrick Harkins  
Marcia Fingal  
Riaz Patel, Executive Producer, Axial Entertainment  
Melissa Potter Monsanto, Vice President, Social Impact, MTV  
Entertainment Group  
Dr. Atira Charles, Head of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, Moët  
Hennessy, North America  
Nick Stuart, Odyssey Impact CEO  
Daniel Tibbets, Odyssey Impact COO  
Jensie Ogle, Odyssey Impact, Director Of Diversity, Inclusion &  
Multicultural Impact

Thank you to our former committee members:  
Simran Jeet Singh, Senior Diversity & Inclusion Advisor, YSC  
Consulting  
Byron Garrett, CEO, National Family Engagement Alliance

## Be an Impactor!

Learn how you can help drive Odyssey Impact's mission of using storytelling and media to connect faith and secular communities and DRIVE SOCIAL CHANGE!

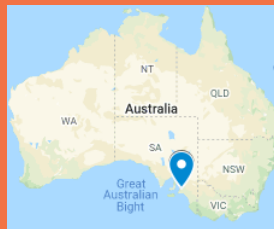
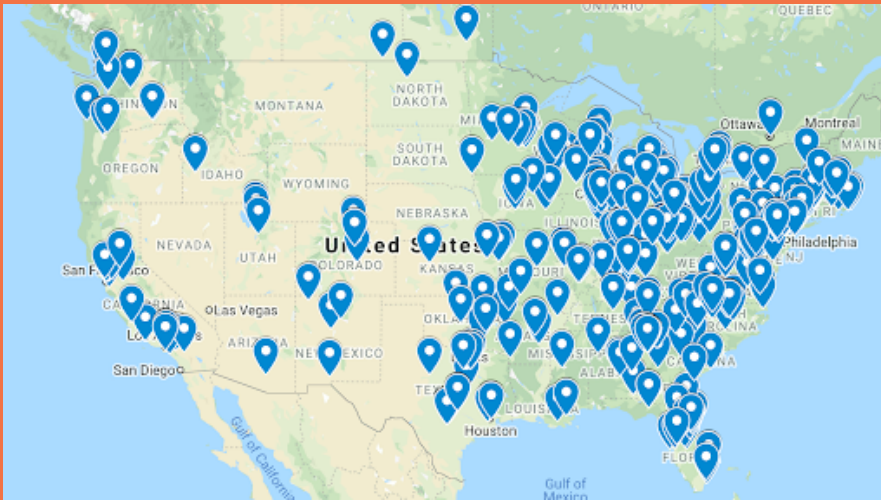
Are you an investor in social change and want to make a donation? Contact Ann O'Leary, Director of Strategy and Advancement: (203) 368-8649 or [ann@odyssey-impact.org](mailto:ann@odyssey-impact.org)

For faith leaders, nonprofits, corporations, and educators wanting to host social impact screenings, please contact: [screenings@odyssey-impact.org](mailto:screenings@odyssey-impact.org)

## Diversity, Equity and



## WHERE WE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT!



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