Public Church, Public Leaders: Women in Leadership  
2016 LSTC Leadership Conference and Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards  
October 11-13, 2016

Panels and panelists

Wednesday, October 12, 10:15 a.m.  
Panelists discuss the importance of amplifying women's voices in today's public arena given the political climate and how we, as leaders, may encourage this.

Linda Hartke is president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). She began working on refugee and immigrant issues with the Southeast Asian refugee community in Massachusetts in the 1980s, when she was chief of staff to Rep. Chet Atkins (D, MA). Hartke worked with Cambodian refugees and then as director of programs and operations at Church World Service. She was executive director of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a global network of churches and agencies engaged in advocacy on common concerns. She has also served on boards and advisory councils including the World AIDS Campaign, the Rose Marie Khoo Foundation and Amnesty International USA.

Charlotte Haberaecker is the president and CEO of Lutheran Services in America (LSA), a network of more than 300 Lutheran health and human services organizations that serve one in fifty people across the country each year. LSA members serve a broad diversity of vulnerable, low-income people from children, youth, and families to seniors, refugees, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, veterans, and the homeless among others. LSA is ranked #23 on the Philanthropy 400 and provides over $21 billion in services annually. Prior to joining LSA in 2012, Haberaecker was the number two executive at Global Impact, a $110 million non-profit organization that provides funding for critical humanitarian needs at home and around the world. While there she led two of the world’s largest fundraising campaigns, raising over $80 million a year. Previously, she held senior leadership positions at Price Waterhouse where she strengthened nonprofit, for-profit, and government organizations. Haberaecker also served as a senior leader at Fannie Mae where she led an industry transformation initiative and was the co-inventor on five patents. She was named to The NonProfit Times Magazine's "Power & Influence Top 50" in 2015, which recognizes the nonprofit sector’s leaders for innovation, influence on the sector and for developing organizational models that can be replicated.

Pastor William E. Flippin Jr. was born and raised in the Baptist tradition where his father still serves as a pastor. After completing his ThM at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, he returned to Atlanta, but had already begun transitioning into the Lutheran faith. Flippin received the "Prophetic Voice Award" from Faith in Public Life, Washington, DC, in April 2016. He also received the Servant Leadership Award for the Georgia NAACP where he serves as Third Vice President. He currently sits on the ELCA church council, and is a very active pastor in the greater Atlanta area.

Rev. Amy Reumann is ELCA director of advocacy, which includes the UN, Washington, State Public Policy and Corporate Social Responsibility offices. As a child she lived in Germany, Israel, England and India, launching a lifelong interest in international issues, which became her major at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa. She subsequently served in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Jersey City, NJ, and later at the Lutheran Office for World Community at the UN, sharpening
her commitment to faith-rooted advocacy. She earned her master of divinity at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, with a focus in cross-cultural ministry, and a scholarship year in Leipzig, GDR. A master of sacred theology in spiritual direction at the General Theological Seminary in New York City helped her to ground her public witness in Christian spiritual tradition.

Reumann served as a pastor to communities in New Jersey and Wisconsin and as Assistant to the Bishop/Urban Coalition Director in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. For six years she was director of the ELCA state public policy office in Pennsylvania. In 2011 she was named a GreenFaith Fellow in religious-environmental leadership. She is a busy mom, an enthusiastic knitter and quilter and an avid reader of mysteries. Reumann is a master gardener with interests in urban gardening, local food systems and native plants.

Wednesday, October 12, 2 p.m.
In the intersection of the work of world hunger, advocacy, volunteers, and activism, panelist share their leadership path and the work they do. They also tell how they and the organizations they work for support/mentor/nurture the roles of young women.

Mikka McCrakken is a South Korean adoptee and life-long Lutheran. She lives in Chicago and serves as director of planning and engagement for ELCA World Hunger. McCracken believes it is possible to end poverty and hunger and that the church plays an important role. She has worked with the ELCA Justice for Women program, advocates for gender justice and serves on The Lutheran World Federation International Council.

Erika Dornfeld received her master of divinity from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2015, and was an affiliate student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Her coursework focused on environmental ethics and theology. She received the International Ministries Study Grant to survey faith-based organizations in Tanzania involved in climate change adaptation.

Prior to Divinity School, Dornfeld was a member of the Lutheran Volunteer Corps. For two years in Chicago, she served at the interfaith environmental organization Faith in Place. Her interest in the intersections of faith and the environment stemmed from her time at Pacific Lutheran University, where she majored in biology and minored in religion. She currently attends St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago.

Rozella Haydée White is a coach, creator, and consultant accompanying individuals, organizations and communities live meaningful lives by embracing the fullness of who they are. White currently serves as the Houston city director for Mission Year, an organization committed to walking with young adults as they fall in love with Jesus and the city, come alive in their gifts and purpose, build beloved community across dividing lines and become advocates for God’s justice in our neighborhoods and world.

She previously served as the director for young adult ministry for the ELCA. As a writer, teacher, preacher and public theologian, White is a known presence on social media boldly engaging issues of faith, justice, mental illness and the radical and transformative love of Jesus. She is desperately seeking justice, mercy, humility and love. She believes that everyone is gifted and has the power to transform themselves, their communities and the world when they tap into their most authentic self.

Inez Torres Davis is an Indigenous Latina working within and for the whitest religious affiliation in the United States, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as Women of the ELCA’s core racial justice/anti-racism trainer since January of 1997. She is completing training for spiritual direction.

Cindy Crane began her position as director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin on January 9, 2014. She has 10 years of experience as a parish pastor and spent several years
managing secular nonprofits, where some of her duties included working as an advocate and familiarizing herself with government officials.

**Padmaragam Vundi** was born into a second generation Christian family in India that raised and nourished her with Godly values. Her involvement in her home church, training at two seminaries with vast diversity, internship experience with the Christian NGO EFICOR (The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief), and her role as a pastor’s wife in Delhi shaped her Christian journey.

She came to the US five years ago when her husband began doctoral studies at the University of Chicago. Since then, she has completed two masters’ degrees at LSTC and is enrolled in the PhD program. She wants to focus her research on the “history and theology of Christian marriage in Indian church” to analyze how subordination of women has been reinforced culturally and religiously. Vundi and her family (seven year old daughter Khushi and husband Barnabas) live in Chicago.

**Facilitator for both panels**

**Beth Lewis** is the president & CEO of 1517 Media, the ministry of publishing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 1517 Media is the parent organization of Augsburg Fortress, Fortress Press and Sparkhouse, (ELCA). Originally from Lexington, Ky., Lewis is a lifelong Lutheran. She attended the University of Kentucky and completed her undergraduate degree at Maryville University in St. Louis. She is also a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School. In May 2008, she received the doctor of divinity honorary degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary. In 2015, she was recognized with the Women in Business Award by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. In June 2015, Augsburg Fortress (now known as 1517 Media) was named one of the Top Workplaces in Minnesota by the Star Tribune based on a robust employee engagement survey of companies across the state.