



## “Defying Divisions: Multi-Faith Engagement to Move us Forward”

Oct 19, 2021 – Jan 13, 2021



**Meghan Campbell**

*Program Associate, Fetzer Institute (Kalamazoo, MI)*

Meghan Campbell is a Program Associate at the Fetzer Institute. The Fetzer Institute's mission is to build the spiritual foundation for a more loving world. Through partnerships, the Fetzer Institute collaborates with organizations in democracy, education, spiritual formation, and the Southwest Michigan region. Specifically, Meghan supports the Institute's place-based initiatives and coordinates the Shared Sacred Story work.



**Mahjabeen Dhala**

*Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies and Director of Madrasa-Midrasha Program, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)*

In Mahjabeen Dhala's capacity as a religious leader and pilgrim guide, Mahjabeen has spent the last couple of decades studying and learning with and from Muslim communities across the global north and south. Her international engagements have privileged her with a unique aptitude of blending research methods from both traditional Islamic principles and western academic disciplines. Mahjabeen has both a faculty and director position at the GTU, an institution that facilitates graduate study of religion in North America with a unique focus on interreligious and interdisciplinary perspectives.



**Angela Graham**

*Director, Fetzer Institute (Kalamazoo, MI)*

Angela H. Graham, Ed.D., is Director of Southwest Michigan Strategies at the Fetzer Institute in Kalamazoo, Michigan. In this role, she is leading a new body of work focused on place-based engagement to advance the Institute's mission of helping to build the spiritual foundation for a loving world. She has over 25 years of professional experience in grantmaking, program development, institutional research/planning/evaluation, board relations, fundraising, and public policy.



**Michele Gossman**

*Congregation of St Joseph (Kalamazoo, MI)*

Michele Gossman has worked with the Sisters of St Joseph, an order of Catholic women who are co-workers, friends, and exemplars for over 20 years. She is a curious person with a listening ear and a questioning mind who is drawn to creation in nature. Nothing in her Protestant, business school, banking background would have suggested that this path would emerge, but her work with the Sisters of St Joseph has opened her heart to people from many places and traditions, for which she is most grateful.



**Elizabeth (Liz) Hakken Candido**

*College Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life, Kalamazoo College (Kalamazoo, MI)*

Liz is an ordained Presbyterian (USA) Pastor who has spent her career working in interfaith and multi-faith landscapes. She has served as an Associate Pastor in Worthington, OH, Presbyterian Campus Minister at Ohio State University, and is currently the College Chaplain and Director of Religious Life at Kalamazoo College. Liz received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and her Doctor of Ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary. She has served in a variety of national leadership roles including on the founding board of the Presbyterian Association for Collegiate and Higher Education Ministry (PACHEM) and the Presbyterian College Chaplaincy Association's executive team.



**Tabassum Haleem**

*CEO, Islamic Networks Group (San Jose, CA)*

Tabassum Haleem is the CEO of Islamic Networks Group, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote peace among all, by fostering a deeper, more nuanced understanding of Muslims and other faith-based, racial/ethnic, and cultural communities, through teaching, learning, and engaging across differences. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Master of Public Policy and Master of Arts from the University of Chicago, and is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). Tabassum serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Board of LGC's Leadership Fellows Association. Tabassum is a recipient of the Minorities in Public Policy Studies Alumni Award from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, and a McCormick Tribune Urban Policy Leadership Fellow.



**Jeanne Hess**

*City Commissioner, City of Kalamazoo, Michigan (Kalamazoo, MI)*

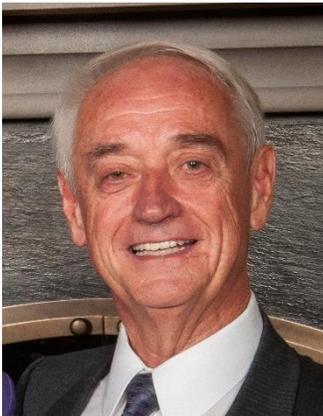
Jeanne Hess spent 35 years in higher education at Kalamazoo College as a professor of physical education, coach, and chaplain. She retired in 2019 and chose to run for a seat on Kalamazoo City Commission. Jeanne's service to the City began in November of 2019 and extends through 2023. In an effort to combine her sport, academic, and spiritual experiences, she's authored two books, "Sportuality: Finding Joy in the Games," and "Max Ability: Who Are You and What Are You Here For?"



**Hala Hijazi**

*Commissioner, Human Rights Commission, City, & County (San Francisco, CA)*

Commissioner Hala Hijazi serves on the City and County of San Francisco's Human Rights Commission, on the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Interfaith Council representing the Muslim Community, Chairs the San Francisco Police Chief's Muslim Advisory Committee, and Chairs the San Francisco Chapter of the Truman National Security Project. She is a community and interfaith leader with 20 years of public service, government, business, and social entrepreneurship experience collaborating with and representing high-level government, Fortune 500 companies, and diverse constituency stakeholders in highly charged and sensitive environments addressing complex public policy issues, delivering infrastructure, housing, economic and political solutions, advancing human and civil rights, fighting for marginalized communities, and leading interfaith engagement.



**P. Douglas Kindschi**

*Director, Kaufman Interfaith Institute (Grand Rapids, MI)*

Douglas Kindschi is the Director of The Kaufman Interfaith Institute. The Kaufman Interfaith Institute offers a broad range of programming (over 200 events/initiatives each year) that seeks to create a more inclusive and equitable West Michigan Community for persons of diverse cultural and religious/secular/spiritual identities. The Institute's activities include community-wide events as well as programming in cooperation with other community organizations and with the eight college, seminary and university campuses in the area.



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**PICO California**  
*Unlocking the Power of People™*

**Andrew C. Lee**

*Policy & Strategic Projects Manager, PICO California  
(Los Angeles, CA)*

PICO California is the largest multi-racial faith-based community organizing network in the state, building the power of people of faith to reshape their lives and communities. PICO's statewide network of 10 organizations trains grassroots leaders to take collective civic action, grounded in their prophetic traditions, toward our shared moral vision - a California where all can belong & thrive. PICO uses a relationship-based organizing model to develop leadership and capacity in faith communities across California needed to bring forth systemic change & transformation.

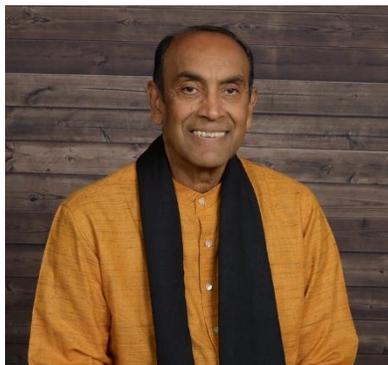


**San Francisco**  
**INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL**

**Michael George Pappas**

*Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council (San Francisco, CA)*

During this time of social change in San Francisco, civic leaders and the public view the SFIC as the "go-to" organization for mobilizing our City's religious communities. Congregations and faith-based agencies turn to SFIC for resources, referral, and representation. SFIC's robust relationships and communications network of over 4,000 e-subscribers allow the SFIC to bring together and mobilize San Francisco's faith-based community to create an effective, combined force for service and issues of public policy, so that we may accomplish together what no single congregation can alone. In his tenure as Executive Director, Michael has helped increase the Council's budget and programs substantially; strengthened existing and cultivated new relationships with civic leaders, NGOs, judicatories, and congregations; and significantly projected the SFIC through expanded use of technology.



**Anantanand Rambachan**

*Board Chair, Minnesota Multifaith Network & Emeritus Professor of Religion, Saint Olaf College (Minneapolis, MN)*

Anantanand Rambachan is Emeritus Professor of Religion at Saint Olaf College, Minnesota. Prof. Rambachan has been involved in interreligious relations and dialogue for over three decades as a Hindu contributor and analyst. His latest book is "Pathways to Hindu-Christian Dialogue."



**Stephanie Rapp**

Program Lead, Walter and Elise Haas Fund (San Francisco, CA)

As Senior Program Officer at the Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Stephanie Rapp oversees portfolios in Jewish Life, Disaster Preparedness, and Safety Net. She supports efforts to connect the Jewish community with other faith communities and build interfaith partnerships that work for social justice, and that recognize the diversity of the American Jewish community. She created the Disaster Preparedness portfolio to help local non-profits become more resilient, and co-created the Safety Net portfolio, which fights homelessness and hunger. Her past work includes time at the United Nations, where she led the UN50 Committee, which planned the 50th anniversary of the founding of the UN in San Francisco.



**Doran Schrantz**

*Director, ISAIAH MN (Minneapolis MN)*

ISAIAH is a multi-faith, community-rooted organization of churches, mosques, small barbershops/beautyshops, and childcare centers working collectively and powerfully for multi-racial democracy in Minnesota. ISAIAH uses a community organizing model, grounded in developing and unleashing grassroots leadership to change the conditions that impact their lives. ISAIAH has worked on democracy issues, paid leave policies, climate justice, policy accountability, universal childcare, etc. Doran has been organizing for over 20yrs in Chicago and Minnesota areas, 17 of which she has spent at ISAIAH, and ten as Director. ISAIAH and Doran have been featured in multiple academic books, articles, and publications; most recently Prisms of the People by Hahrie Hahn, Liz McKenna of Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins and P3 Labs.



# RELIGION & SOCIETY

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**Saran Fina Sidime**

*Interfaith Community Organizer, Minnesota Council of Churches (Minneapolis, MN)*

Saran Fina Sidime is the Interfaith Community Organizer at the Minnesota Council of Churches (MCC), a faith-based organization in the twin cities. In this role, she works to advance racial and economic justice in an interfaith capacity with churches, mosques, and synagogues. Saran is also the event organizer for Taking Heart - a long-running program coordinated by MCC and the Muslim American Society of Minnesota (MAS-MN) to bring Christians and members of other faith communities together with Muslims for food and conversation during Ramadan. Saran is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School where she received a master's in theological studies with a focus on Religion, Ethics, and Politics. She holds a BA in International Relations from Mount Holyoke College. In addition to her work with the council, Saran is the host of a brand new podcast show, Hidden Grief, a podcast exploring grief experiences including and beyond death and dying.



**Chanda Smith Baker**

*Chief Impact Officer and Senior Vice President, Minneapolis Foundation (Minneapolis, MN)*

Chanda has more than 20 years of experience working in, for, and with underestimated communities. At the Foundation, which she joined in 2017, Chanda oversees grantmaking programs, provides strategic direction to community initiatives and partnerships, and is the founder and host of the award-winning podcast Conversations with Chanda. Previously, Chanda spent 17 years at Pillsbury United Communities, a complex community-based nonprofit where she served in a variety of leadership positions before assuming the role of president and CEO in 2011. In addition to leading Pillsbury in pursuing bold strategies to address systemic inequities, Chanda has served on numerous nonprofit and philanthropic boards throughout her career, and her civic leadership has been recognized with several awards and commendations. She unwinds by spending time with family and loves to travel, shop, and watch football.



**Adam Stock Spilker**

*Chair, Minnesota Multifaith Network & Rabbi, Mount Zion Temple (St. Paul, MN)*

Adam Stock Spilker is a founder of the Minnesota Multifaith Network. The Minnesota Multifaith Network is the statewide network supporting faith and interfaith leaders and organizations working for a more just and loving world. Adam currently serves on the Board and chairs the Network Council, an advisory committee.

He has served as Rabbi of Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, MN for almost 25 years along with his wife Cantor Rachel Stock Spilker. They have three children ages 17-24.



**Dylan Tatz**

*President, Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust (San Francisco, CA)*

Dylan Tatz is the President of the Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust (BCT), a family foundation supporting over 150 organizations. Mr. Tatz joined BCT in 2016, most recently serving as Executive Vice President, and is the first individual outside the Becker family to serve as President. Prior to joining BCT, Dylan spent four years as Executive Director of zSharp, a Bay Area music

education non-profit, spearheading its transformation from a traditional non-profit into a sustainable social enterprise. Before coming to zSharp, Dylan served as an Associate at McKinsey & Company, and founded and led Tatz Entertainment, a management consulting firm working with Silicon Valley startups. Dylan earned his M.B.A. at the Wharton School of Business and his A.B. from Princeton University, majoring in Religion.



**Chiezan Tomczyk**

*Reverend, Sokukoji Buddhist Monastery (Battle Creek, MI)*

Sokukoji Buddhist Monastery, a Soto Zen Temple, was founded By Rev. Kyoun Sokuzan, a student of the Tibetan Tulku, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, as well as the Zen Master Kobun Chino Roshi. Chiezan has been living in the monastery for 10 years as the head monk helping Sokuzan to train incoming monks, teach classes, and meditation.