

Hope Is Here!

Joyful and daunting opportunities to live into God's dream of justice and beloved community are compelling and available. Hope is essential to the needed personal and social transformations that prepare us for such sacred opportunities. Yet genuine hope is often confused as merely wish fulfillment, optimism, or perceiving better tomorrows. How can we cultivate the inner resources necessary to work for change? Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr. and his new book, *Hope is Here*, prepares us to engage racism, mass incarceration, environmental crises, divisive politics, and indifference that imperil justice and beloved community. Hope is here for our "responsibility" and "response-ability" to live the fulfilling life that God dreams for us. On the subject, Luther writes: "we are at another moment where we desperately need to see and hear strong faith voices for justice for children and to spread examples of interfaith, interracial, multi-ethnic communities rising together above all voices that threaten to divide us. My parents and community elders had faith that we will reap a harvest at the right time if we do not give up and that love is still stronger than hate. I try every day to remember and act on their faith."



Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr is Professor Emeritus of Church & Community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University. He writes, teaches, and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, interfaith cooperation, child advocacy, congregational renewal, Christian spirituality, and the thoughts of Howard Thurman. Smith is an ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He retired from Candler in 2014.

In 2009, Smith received the Phillips School of Theology "Bishops Thomas Hoyt and Paul Stewart Institutional Ministry Award for Outstanding Service to the Ministry of Academics." In 2010, he was the recipient of Emory University's "2010 Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award," which is given "in recognition of the important role of classroom teaching in classroom teaching in collegiate and graduate education."

Curious about what exactly you'll be doing on the retreat? You can look forward to:

- Morning presentations with the featured speaker
- Experiencing worship in multiple forms (e.g. with eucharist, outside at sunset...)
- Contemplative small groups that gather regularly
- Integration activities throughout the week
- Enjoying the beautiful natural scenery of Zephyr Point in Tahoe

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