

4th Annual Interfaith Summit Agenda

Friday, October 29, 2021 | 9:00am to 4:00pm



Register now at DFWReligiousFreedom.org

9:00 – 10:15am

First General Session

Topic: Human Dignity and Religious Freedom

Welcome: *Mark Romney*, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, Founder, Romney Law Firm

Blessing on the day: *Dr. Karen Hollie*, Sr. Pastor Dallas Lifeway Church

Comments by *Mark Romney*

Introduction of R. Gerald Turner: *Dr. Robert Hunt*, Director Global Theological Education, SMU Perkins School of Theology

Welcome comments: *R. Gerald Turner*, President Southern Methodist University

Discrimination in Local Government: *Dr. Jarvis Baker*, Case of Eminent Domain

Discrimination by the Federal Government: *Bunni Pounds*, Case of no Tax Exemption

Keynote, Human Dignity and Religious Freedom for Everyone Everywhere: *Professor Brett G. Scharffs*, Director International Center for Law and Religion Studies, JR Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, Author of *Points of Light*

10:15 – 10:30am

BREAK

10:30 – 11:30am

Morning Breakout Sessions

(See page 4 for Morning Breakout Session details)

Session 1: Declaration, Constitution, Bill of Rights: What the Founders Had in Mind

Session 2: Recent Legal Cases on Religious Freedom

Session 3: Institutional Interfaith and Religious Freedom Outreach

Session 4: Gen Z Trends Across all Religions; Why? What to Do?

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11:45 – 1:00pm

Second General Session

Topic: Compromise and Unity

Conducting: *Melissa McKneely*, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, Area Communications Director for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Blessing on food: *Imam Azhar Azeez*, Former President Islamic Society of North America, Vice President, Islamic Relief U.S.A

Musical number: *Naomi Worth, Ruth Ashurst, Daryl Fletcher*, members Dallas Millennial Choirs and Orchestra

Table Discussions: *Getting Along with Friends and Family of Differing Views*

Introduction of The Honorable Thomas B. Griffith: *Hannah C. Smith*, DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom Board Member

Keynote Address: Moderation and Unity, The Honorable Thomas B. Griffith: Retired Judge United States Court of Appeals for the District of

1:00 – 1:30pm

BREAK AND PRAYER ROOM

1:30 – 2:30pm

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

(See page 5 for Afternoon Breakout Session details)

Session 5: *Teaching Human Dignity and Civics in Schools*

Session 6: *Trending Legal Issues & Initiatives Affecting Religious Freedom*

Session 7: *Neighborhood Interfaith and Religious Freedom Outreach*

Session 8: *Religious Freedom and Inclusivity in Business - TI Case Study*

2:30 – 2:45pm

BREAK

2:45 – 4:00pm

Third General Session

Topic: Local Action Plan for Human Dignity & Religious Freedom

Conducting: *Dr. Bob Roberts Jr.*, Founder, Northwood Church, Multifaith Neighbors Network

Discrimination in Local Government: *Pastor Wayne Walker* no shelter for the homeless during snowstorm

Call to action: *William P. Benac*, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom

2:45 – 4:00pm

Human Dignity and Religious Freedom in Your Neighborhood

Moderator: Dr. Bob Roberts Jr., Founder Northwood Church, Multifaith Neighbors Network

Pastor George Mason, Sr. Pastor, Wilshire Baptist Church

Imam Azhar Azeez, Former President, Islamic Society of North America: Vice President, Islamic Relief U.S.A

Reverend Mark Hernandez, National Exec Director, American Clergy Leadership Conference

Rev Dr. Neil G. Thomas, Sr. Pastor, Cathedral of Hope

Elizabeth Souder, Commentary Editor, Dallas Morning News

Closing prayer: Reverend Lisa Garvin, Chaplain, Southern Methodist University

SEE BREAKOUT SESSION INFO ON NEXT PAGE



DFWReligiousFreedom.org

SMU Hughes – Trigg Student Center
3140 Dyer St. Dallas, TX

 @dfw_for
 @dfwreligiousfreedom

Morning Breakout Sessions

Session 1: *The Declaration, The Constitution and The Bill of Rights: What the founders had in mind*

Moderator: William P. Benac, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom

David Harmer, President and CEO, Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge

Dr. Kate Carté, History Professor, Southern Methodist University

Session 2: *Recent Legal Cases on Religious Freedom*

Moderator: Keisha Russell, Counsel, First Liberty Institute

Shannon Minter, Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights

Steven T. Collis, Founding Director, First Amendment Center and Law and Religion Clinic University of Texas

Francisco J. Valenzuela, Attorney, Fanning Harper Martinson Brandt & Kutchin

Amrith Aakre, Legal Director, Sikh Coalition

Session 3: *Institutional Interfaith and Religious Freedom Outreach*

Moderator: Almas Muscatwalla, Chair, Interfaith Council and Board of Directors Thanks-Giving Foundation in Dallas

Brother Marzuq A. Jaami, Muslim Interfaith Leader

Dr. Terry Turner, Sr. Pastor, Mesquite Fellowship Baptist Church

Dr. Randel Everett, Founder, 21 Wilberforce

Huseyin Peker, Executive Director, Dialogue Institute

Dr. Anne Perry, Professor, Art Institute of Dallas, Bahai Community

Session 4: *Gen Z Trends Across all Religions; Why? What to Do?*

Moderator: Dr. Robert Hunt, Director Global Theological Education, SMU Perkins School of Theology

Josh Packard, Ph.D., Springtide Research Institute

University of Texas Law Students: Nicholas Markwordt, Jack Shea, Isaac Chavira

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Session 5: Teaching Human Dignity and Civics in Schools

Moderator: Mark Romney, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, Founder, Romney Law Firm

Watt Lesley Black, Jr., Ph.D., Clinical Professor, Education Policy and Leadership

Jack Goodyear, Ph.D., Dean, Gary Cook School of Leadership; Professor of Political Science

Dr. Richard Dougherty, Director of Politics and Graduate Programs, University of Dallas

Tina Ramirez, Founder and President, Hardwired Global

Session 6: Trending Issues & Initiatives Affecting Religious Freedom

Moderator: Michelle Reed, Co-founder DFW Alliance for Religious Freedom, Partner, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld

Steven T. Collis, Law Professor, University of Texas

President Stuart Adams, President, Utah State Senate

Keisha Russell, Counsel, First Liberty Institute

Session 7: Neighborhood Interfaith and Religious Freedom Outreach

Moderator: Bishop Keith Earl

Dr. Karen Hollie, Dallas Lifeway Church

Harbhajan Singh Virdee, President, Gurdwara Nishkam Seva (Sikh)

Cantor Don Croll, Congregation Beth-El Binah

Bishop Ekong, Brotherhood of Cross and Star

Emrah Aktepe, Board Member, Dialogue Institute

Session 8: Religious Freedom and Inclusivity in Business - A Texas Instruments Case Study

Moderator: Kent Johnson, Sr. Corporate Advisor, Religious Freedom in Business Foundation

Leaders of Texas Instruments Faith Based Employee Resource Groups,

Dr. Martin Karnett, Member Advisory Board, Global Diversity Network, previously Co-chair, Jewish Diversity Initiative

Dr. Siraj Akhtar, Founding Member, Muslim Employees Initiative, Member, Diversity Network

Craig Dalley, Co-founder of both Christian and Jewish Employee Resource Groups