

*The* Tennessee Human Rights Commission  
Metro Nashville Human Relations Commission  
*With* Partner Organizations  
*Present...*

# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2014



Celebrating the 66th Anniversary of the  
Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
December 10, 2014  
First Amendment Center

# International Human Rights Day



October 24, 1945, in the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations came into being as an intergovernmental organization, with the purpose of saving future generations from the devastation of international conflict.

United Nations representatives formally adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948.

The Declaration was drafted by representatives of all regions of the world and encompassed all legal traditions. It is the most universal human rights document in existence, delineating the thirty fundamental rights that form the basis for a democratic society.

Following this historic act, the Assembly called upon all Member Countries to publicize the text of the Declaration and “to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories.”

Today, the Declaration is a living document that has been accepted as a contract between a government and its people throughout the world.

In Tennessee, the Human Rights Day celebration has become a time to reflect and look to the future. During the event, we honor those who have given a lifetime of service to making human rights a reality, those who have given outstanding service to forward human rights and those who are picking up the torch and carrying it forward.

# Program Agenda

**Musical Selection**—Divine Praise Ensemble

**Master of Ceremonies**—Beverly Watts  
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

**Opening Remarks**—Tom Negri  
Interim Executive Director, Metro Human Relations Commission

**Gubernatorial Proclamation** presented by Senator Thelma Harper

**Mayoral Proclamation** presented by Council Member Lonnell Matthews

**Keynote Speaker**—Professor Dennis C. Dickerson  
James M. Lawson, Jr. Professor of History, Vanderbilt University

**Human Rights Rising Advocate Awardee, Eben Cathey**  
**Presentation of Award**— Loraine Segovia Paz  
Chair, Nashville Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**Human Rights Rising Advocate Awardee, Daynise Joseph**  
**Presentation of Award**— Veronica Marable Johnson  
President, local chapter of National Coalition of 100 Black Women

**Outstanding Service to Human Rights Awardee, Yuri Cunza**  
**Presentation of Award**— Rev. Enoch Fuzz  
Pastor, Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church

**Outstanding Service to Human Rights Awardee, Avi Poster**  
**Presentation of Award**— Aisha Lbhalla  
Chair, Muslim Women’s Council

**Special Tribute to Mr. John Seigenthaler and Mr. George Barrett**  
Remarks by Dwight Lewis, Retired Editor, Tennessean  
Video Presentation by the Tennessee Human Rights Commission

**Lifetime Achievement Awardee, Fr. Joseph Breen**  
**Presentation of Award**— Tom Negri  
Interim Executive Director, Metro Human Relations Commission

**Lifetime Achievement Awardee, First Baptist Church Capitol Hill**  
**Presentation of Award**— Beverly Watts  
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

**Closing Remarks**—Beverly Watts  
Executive Director, Tennessee Human Rights Commission

**Unity Prayer**—Rev. Brian Fesler  
Pastor, Church of Scientology

## Master of Ceremonies Ms. Beverly Watts



Nashville native **Beverly Watts** was appointed the Executive Director of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission in July 2007. Prior to her current appointment, she served as Special Advisor to the Chair at the U S Equal Employment Opportunity Commission responsible for state and local relations. She has more than 25 years of civil rights enforcement and education experience in the public and private sector.

Beverly is the recipient of numerous awards including her July 2005 Induction to the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame. She is the recipient of the 2005 Louisville Metro MLK Freedom Award; 2003 Women Leading Kentucky Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award and the 2003 EEOC/FEPA Award for Innovative Outreach, to name a few.

## Keynote Speaker Prof. Dennis Dickerson



Professor **Dennis C. Dickerson** specializes in American Labor History, the History of the U. S. Civil Rights Movement, and African American religious history. He served as Historiographer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from 1988 to 2012. He served as President of the American Society of Church History, 2004-2005 and is a member of the editorial board of Wesley and Methodist Studies.

Before coming to Vanderbilt, Prof. Dickerson taught at Williams College from 1976 to 1999 and was Stanfield Professor of History, Chairman of the Department of History, and Chairman of the Afro-American Studies Program. He has also taught at Rhodes College, Yale Divinity School, and Payne Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Out of the Crucible: Black Steel Workers in Western Pennsylvania, 1875-1980*, *Militant Mediator: Whitney M. Young, Jr.* and *African American Preachers and Politics: The Careys of Chicago*.

## Human Rights Rising Advocate Awards



**Eben Cathey** has worked for years with social justice organizations such as My Global Voice, the Worker's Dignity Project and Nashville Cares. He has been with the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition since 2012. Eben graduated Rhodes College in 2006, then was awarded a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship to study in South Africa for a year where he earned a Master's Degree in Political and International Studies.



**Daynise Joseph** began her grassroots organizing career in 1999 working on issues like international trade, worker's rights, and living wage. Daynise is currently the Executive Director for Organized Neighbors of Edgehill, where her organizing efforts focus on healthy food access, education, crime and safety, and other issues as generated by the community.

## Outstanding Service Awards



**Yuri Cunza** is the co-founder of the Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which was established in 2008 to advance educational opportunities for Hispanic youth and to combat issues that force families and individuals into economic despair. Yuri is an advocate for the advancement of Hispanic business as well as immigrant and civil rights in Middle Tennessee. He is a powerful voice for the growing Latino community.

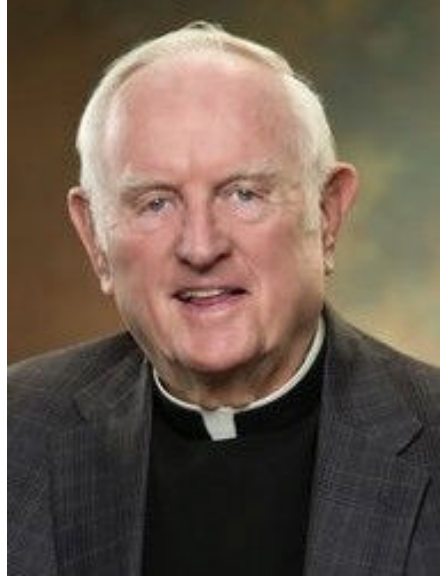


**Avi Poster** arrived in Nashville in 2001 and immediately thrust himself into public service. He served as chair of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce Education Report Card, the Rochelle Center for Adults with Developmental Disabilities, the Coalition for Education About Immigration, Clergy for Tolerance, the Muslim-Jewish Circle of Friends, and A Voice For Poverty Reduction. He works daily to advance human dignity and rights for all.

# Lifetime Achievement Awards

## *Father Joseph Breen*

**Father Joseph Pat Breen** was the eighth of nine children born to loving and faith-filled parents, Paul and Anna Marie. He attended Christ the King Elementary and Father Ryan High School in Nashville. Further education includes graduation from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa and an outstanding experience at North American College in Rome, where he received a license in theology from Gregorian University, staffed by the Jesuits of the Society of Jesus.



Fr. Breen was ordained in 1961 as a diocesan priest in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He returned to Tennessee to serve in Memphis, Chattanooga, Cleveland and Murfreesboro parishes until 1984 when he became a most beloved pastor of St. Edward Church and School.

He helped launch Our Lady of Guadalupe, a Spanish-speaking parish that started as a St. Edward mission and became independent in 2007.

Fr. Breen believes in the equal treatment of men and women, and has supported the ordination of women priests in the Catholic church.

A strong believer in the dignity of every human being, Fr. Breen is an advocate for immigration reform and embracing diversity in every level of the community. His welcoming spirit and genuine love for the people he serves is a true testament to living out his calling as a disciple of Christ, a man of God and a servant of all.

Fr. Breen retired from St. Edward Church in 2014, but continues to serve the community by advocating for equal treatment and human dignity.

## *First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill*

### **First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill**

has been designated the oldest continuously operating African American church in Tennessee, because it traces its origin back to First Baptist Colored Mission which first met to hold prayer services in 1835. In January 1848, First Colored Baptist Mission (FCBM) officially established separate services under the white assistant minister and assisted by three free black preachers, John Dodd,



Henry Howard, and Nelson G. Merry. A former slave tutored by white ministers, Merry became the moderator for the Mission in 1853. On November 29 of that year he was ordained a minister in the Baptist Church. Later, as the Civil War came to an end, Mission members petitioned First Baptist Church to become an independent church under the name First Colored Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. On August 13, 1865 First Colored Baptist Church (FCBC) obtained its independence, and by 1872, the church had over 3,000 members.

First Colored Baptist Church, Capitol Hill built a new church building on Eighth Avenue and continued to provide spiritual guidance through the 20th Century. The church under the leadership of Rev. Kelly Miller Smith, Sr. supported the campaign to desegregate Nashville public schools in the 1950s, the Nashville sit-in movement in 1960, and the Freedom Rides in 1961. The church hosted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during a number of visits and became one of the few racially integrated churches in the South when it accepted white Baptists as congregants.

On October 29, 1965 the 500-plus congregation voted to amend its 1895 charter and drop the word "Colored" from its official church title. From that point it would be known as First Baptist Church, Capitol Hill. In 2015, the church will celebrate its 150th anniversary.

# Acknowledgements

## Event Chair

Rev. Brian Fesler, *Church of Scientology*

## Planning Committee Members

Julie Brinker, *Church of Scientology*

Dina Capitani, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Erica Kesse, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

Aisha Lbhalla, *Muslim Women's Council*

Tom Negri, *Metro Human Relations Commission*

Beverly Watts, *Tennessee Human Rights Commission*

## Hosting Venue

A very special thank you to the First Amendment Center, Gene Policinski and Gay Campbell, for serving as Host Venue.

## Musical Guests

Thank you Divine Praise Ensemble and Masood Taj

## Artwork

Thank you Abby Whisenant and youth of the Oasis Center for creating the "Oasis Center Youth Peace Mural" to counter images of violence.

## Refreshments

Thank you Metro Human Relations Commission and Rev. Enoch Fuzz

## A/V Support

Brantley Sound

## Next Year

If your organization would like to participate in the planning for 2015, please contact the Chair at [info@nashvillehumanrights.org](mailto:info@nashvillehumanrights.org).

## More Information

Visit [www.nashvillehumanrights.org](http://www.nashvillehumanrights.org), join our mailing list and see:

- Full-length versions of the **Awardee Interview Videos**
- The full Universal **Declaration** of Human Rights
- **Information** about Human Rights Day
- Educational **videos**
- Student **artwork** depicting Human Rights
- A resource **directory** of Tennessee human rights organizations
- A pdf version of this **program**
- **Links** to the organizations who exhibited this year
- Information about **past events** and award recipients
- And **more!**