

SANDHYA JHA

Oakland, CA
sandhya@sandhyajha.com

EXPERIENCE

2012- Oakland Peace Center Oakland, CA
Founder/Director

- Re-purposed 40,000 sq. ft. building as office and event space for peace and justice organizations
- Built up network of 40 Bay Area organizations
- Resource and connect organizations towards shared strategies

2016- Leadership Institute at Allen Temple Oakland, CA
Faith-Rooted Organizer

- Help design and teach two-year certificate course for Emerging Leaders Program, two courses per semester.

2015-2017 Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity California
Faith-Rooted Economics trainer

- Offered trainings across Bay Area for faith communities engaging in economic justice work. Sponsored by The San Francisco Foundation

2012-2016 East Bay Housing Organizations Oakland, CA
Director of Interfaith Programs

- Engaged faith community in two counties around advocating for low-income affordable housing
- Connect policy staff with faith communities around local campaigns and policy initiatives

Prior employment: Office of Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer (1997-1998), Religious Outreach Coordinator at The Interfaith Alliance (1998-2001), Associate Regional Minister for the Christian Church of N. CA-NV (2005-2012), Senior Pastor at First Christian Church of Oakland (2006-2013)

EDUCATION

2001-2005 University of Chicago Chicago, IL

- Masters of Divinity
- Masters of Public Policy
- McCormick Scholar at Harris School of Public Policy and Dean's Fellowship
- Disciples House Scholar at the Divinity School and founder of the annual Ministry Conference

1994-1998 Johns Hopkins University Baltimore, MD

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (minors in German and Writing)

- Graduated a semester early while working on the staff of Congressman Thomas C. Sawyer

ADDITIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Anti-Racism Trainer, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Board member, East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy

Member: Alliance of South Asians Taking Action

PUBLICATIONS

Transforming Communities: How People Like You are Healing Their Neighborhoods, Chalice Press, 2017.

Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines, Chalice Press, 2015. (One of the top five books on religion and race in 2015 by Publishers Weekly)

Room at the Table: The Struggle for Unity and Dignity in the Disciples of Christ, Chalice Press, 2009.

Liberating Love: A Daily Devotional, Chalice Press, 2020.

“Jesus Christ for President,” *Preaching as Resistance*, Chalice Press, 2018.

“Reluctant Prophets,” *The Living Pulpit*, Christian Board of Publication, 2018.

“It’s Harder to Be Us: The Gospel of Forgiveness for People on the Margins,” *Justice Calls: Sermons of Welcome and Affirmation*, Cascade Books, 2016.

“The Process of Welcoming LGBTQ people into the church,” *Disruptive Faith, Inclusive Communities: Church and Homophobia*, ISPCK (India), 2015.

“The Matter of Power: Organizing as Women of Faith of Color,” co-author with Mollie Costello, *Women, Religion, & Revolution*, Feminist Studies in Religion, 2016.

TEACHING

Currently adjunct faculty with Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK. Courses include “Social Justice and Theology: Theory and Praxis,” and a practicum course on social justice methodologies applied in congregational and community contexts.

Co-instructor at Lexington Theological Seminary for a two-week intensive on Clergy Healthy Boundaries and Anti-Racism, February 2020.

Weeklong webinar on Transforming Communities through Disciples Seminary Foundation’s Center for Online Learning, October 2019: <https://www.dsf.edu/discover>