

Mecklenburg

Metropolitan Interfaith Network

**MECKMIN
ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
LEADER
AWARDS
BREAKFAST**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

8:00 - 9:00 am



Community Leader Awards Breakfast "CONNECTIONS"

OPENING MUSIC

Adonai Sfatai

Written & performed by The Ruach

"Open up my mouth so my lips may declare Your glory."

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Imam John Ederer

Imam & Religious Director, Muslim Community Center of Charlotte
President, MeckMIN Board of Directors

THEME INTRODUCTION: CONNECTIONS

Jill Blumenthal

Member, Temple Beth El

MeckMIN Board of Directors 2009 - 2014

INTRODUCTION OF MEKO McCARTHY

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler

Associate Professor of Bible & Director of the Center of Social
Justice & Reconciliation at Union Presbyterian
Past President, MeckMIN Board of Directors

ACCEPTANCE

Ms. McCarthy

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Talal Badru Alayana (The Bright Moon Rose Over Us)

A traditional folk song performed by Raef

Community Leader Awards Breakfast "CONNECTIONS"

REMEMBRANCE OF ANGIE FORDE

Rev. Glencie Rhedrick
Co-Chair, Charlotte Clergy Coalition for Justice
Chair, Social Justice for United Missionary Baptist Association
Former President Mecklenburg Ministries

ACCEPTANCE

Rev. Joshua Bowron
Rector, St. Martin's Charlotte

SPOKEN WORD PRESENTATION

Gratitude

Written & performed by L'Monique King, Grateful Author, Poet & Raconteur
Vocals provided by Jazmina

INTRODUCTION OF DEBBIE WARREN

Britt B. Yett
Missions Program Director, Myers Park United Methodist Church

ACCEPTANCE

Rev. Warren

TESTIMONIAL

Rev. Sonja Lee
Pastor Emeritus, Unity Fellowship Church, Charlotte
Executive Director, Lionel Lee, Jr. Wellness Center for Wellness

CHARLOTTE PRIDE BAND

High Hopes

Arranged by Matt Conaway & Jack Holt

Community Leader Awards Breakfast "CONNECTIONS"

RECOGNITIONS & CLOSING COMMENTS

Rev. LeDayne McLeese Polaski
Executive Director, MeckMIN

CLOSING PRAYER

Beth Wells
Member of the Baha'i Faith
MeckMIN Board of Directors 2013 - 2018

POSTLUDE

Yhiyu L'ratzon
Written by Josh Nelson & performed by The Ruach

*"May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart
be acceptable to you, oh Lord,
my Rock and my Redeemer."*

*Information about all the musicians & artists featured in today's service is available on our website.

Fuller bios of the award winners are also available at
www.meckmin.org/awardbreakfast

2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast Winners

Bridge Builder Award Recipient

TEMAKO "Meko" McCARTHY

Meko McCarthy has worked to turn tragedy into healing for herself and others. Following the tragic loss of her son, La-Reko Williams, in 2011, she poured her grief into acting for positive change to build trust and accountability in law enforcement. Seeking a system that is fair and equitable for all, she's sought greater accountability and policy changes, offered grief support and advocacy for others who've lost family members, and served as a bridge between government and the larger community.

She's also volunteered to increase the number of registered and active voters in Mecklenburg County and to increase awareness of domestic violence. She's been a part of community health fairs, back-to-school giveaways, facilitating roundtable discussions, and creating networks of resource sharing. She's spent countless hours throughout the pandemic providing moral support and essential resources to people who are unsheltered, regularly delivering food and other essential items.



2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast Winners

Bridge Builder Award Recipient ANGELA "Angie" FORDE

Our community was immeasurably lessened by the unexpected death of Cicely Angela "Angie" Forde in January of this year. After retirement from the corporate world, Angie pursued her highest calling: advocacy for the poor and the ministry to God in the Episcopal Church.

She was a tireless advocate for the homeless in Charlotte, making her a regular speaker at city council meetings and for a myriad of advocacy efforts and groups. Many organizations referred to her as one of their most active volunteers - but there was only one Angie.

She gladly became a thorn in the side of any who would stand in the way of justice. Angie loved God dearly and that abiding love was the only thing that allowed her to work so furiously for the dignity of all. One would speak for Angie at their own risk, but we think it safe to say she thought it the duty of all people to care for the least of these, as Jesus described the poor and oppressed. It is in service to others that we meet the very face of God.



2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast Winners

Sydnor Thompson, Jr. Community Leader Award Recipient

REV. DEBORAH C. WARREN

Founder and Former President and CEO RAIN



Rev. Debbie Warren founded RAIN in 1992 as an early response to meeting the challenges of AIDS prevention and loving end of life care. Her response helped reshape the community's response, replacing judgment with understanding, prejudice with compassion, and ignorance with knowledge. Over 29 years, Debbie taught hundreds of volunteers from the faith community to provide services to people living with HIV with integrity and love, often saying that a tenet of every major religion is COMPASSION.

2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Sydnor Thompson, Jr.
COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD SPONSOR

Myers Park United Methodist Church



SUSTAINING SPONSORS

Covenant Presbyterian Church

R.A.C.E. CLT

Foundation For The Carolinas

Myers Park Baptist Church

Baha'í Community of Charlotte

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2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

TABLE SPONSORS

Temple Beth El

C. DeWitt Foard & Co., PA

Myers Park Presbyterian Church

GreenFaith

Christ Episcopal Church

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

Tamara Porter

First Baptist Church-West

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations

Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte

St. John's Baptist Church



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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS TABLE SPONSORS

Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region

Julian & Amy Wright

Russ & Amy Jacks Dean

Park Road Baptist Church

Gurdwara Sahib Khalsa Darbar –
Charlotte Sikh House of Worship

St. Martin's Episcopal Church

First United Methodist Church

Jennifer Roberts

Sardis Baptist Church



2021 Community Leader Awards Breakfast

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

1/2 TABLE SPONSORS

Central United Methodist Church

Brenneman Thompson, Kathy – Line Kelly, and
Sydnor Thompson III

Amity Medical Group

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The TQ Group

Joe George

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:
Charlotte NC Coordinating Council

Tom & Stephanie Fielder

Community Building Initiative

Tom & LeDayne McLeese Polaski

First Christian Church



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THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

1/2 TABLE SPONSORS

St. Stephen United Methodist Church
The Episcopal Church of Holy Comforter
First Presbyterian Church
St. Peter Catholic Church
Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church
RAIN

