

# Responding to Religious Trauma and Church Hurt

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This [Trauma Responsive Congregations](#) program is hosted by Boston University School of Theology's [Center for Practical Theology](#) through the generous support of the [Lilly Endowment Inc.](#)

**IN-PERSON + VIRTUAL**

## Responding to Religious Trauma & Church Hurt

Wheelchair accessible  
 Boston University School of Theology  
 745 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA 02215, STH B23 and B24  
 Event Contact: Ylisse Bess, [ybess@bu.edu](mailto:ybess@bu.edu)



**Dr. Shelly Rambo**  
SPEAKER



**Indhira Udofia**  
SPEAKER



**Rev. Dr. Kathryn House**  
SPEAKER



**DATE**  
March 14, 2023



**TIME**  
IN-PERSON 12PM-5:30PM EST  
VIRTUAL 2 PM-5:30 PM

**REGISTER NOW**



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Full Event Schedule → [March 14 Event Schedule.pdf](#)

Event contact: Ylisse Bess [she/they], [ybess@bu.edu](mailto:ybess@bu.edu)

📄 Scan the QR Code to the right for access to this digital resource packet 📄



## Speaker + Artist Bios

**Shelly Rambo (she/her/hers)** is Associate Professor of Theology at Boston University School of Theology. Her research and teaching interests focus on religious responses to trauma and moral injury. She is author of *Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining* (Westminster John Knox, 2010), *Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma* (Baylor University Press, 2017), and co-edited volume with Wendy Cadge, *Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in the Twenty-First Century: An Introduction* (UNC Press, 2022). She is currently directing a Lilly Endowment grant (“Trauma-Responsive Congregations”) focused on supporting urban congregational leaders in their efforts to respond to collective trauma.

**Indhira Udofia LCSW, MDiv, MSW, STM (she/they)** provides community and clinical care through a wide range of praxis including therapeutic and spiritual services, clinical and academic research, writing and collaborative projects. Her extensive work experiences in clinical and community settings (since 2009) and faith communities (since 2014) shaped her deep passion for helping communities and individuals recover from trauma, especially in spaces of spiritual abuse and grief. Indhira believes that her work is a collaborative effort to empower others in their own lives and healing journey. Indhira utilizes strengths-based methodologies that holistically embrace individuals. In the context of community, she utilizes client-based appropriate practices and rituals, restorative practices, and trauma-informed consultation to address power dynamics, conflict resolution, self-care, and other issues that may arise within a healing framework for the flourishing of the collective. Contact Indhira Udofia → [www.imudofia.com](http://www.imudofia.com)

**Rev. Kathryn House, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)** is Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and Practical Theology and Chair of the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker Professorship of Leadership Studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School. House’s research interests include prophetic religious leadership, evangelical purity culture, liberation theologies, religious trauma, theologies of vocation, practical theology, and Baptist theology. Her current project, an expansion of her dissertation *The Afterlife of White Evangelical Purity Culture: Wounds, Legacies, and Impacts*, investigates the theological legacies of white evangelical purity culture (WEPC) and proposes a Baptist theology of baptism as a practice of solidarity in response. Her project foregrounds the passionate evangelical millennialism of antebellum female moral reformers’ efforts to curb prostitution between 1834 and 1838; the faith-based activism of women who fought to end, as well as to foment, racial terror lynchings in the United States; and contemporary criticisms and constructive ethics of the most recent purity movement known as evangelical purity culture. It also considers recent resonant debates over dissonant deployments of bodily and religious freedom during the COVID-19 pandemic. Contact Rev. Dr. House → [kharthouse@gmail.com](mailto:kharthouse@gmail.com)



**Ezra Ercolini (they/them/theirs)** is a multimedia visual artist and creative administrator. They hold a M.Div from Boston University School of Theology and a BFA from Pratt Institute. At the core, Ezra’s journey through theological education began as a search for sacred community that held the willingness and readiness to wholly celebrate one another and now post-graduation, they are still exploring how to promote healing practices within community through the creation of a wide range of visual art forms and crafts. Contact Ezra Ercolini → [withloveezra@gmail.com](mailto:withloveezra@gmail.com)

Responding to Religious Trauma + Church Hurt  
By Ezra Ercolini (they/them/theirs), Mar 14, 2023  
[withloveezra@gmail.com](mailto:withloveezra@gmail.com)



## Responding to Religious Trauma + Church Hurt Docs

### **\*\*\*Contact speakers for distribution or duplication before sharing\*\*\***

- Indhira's slides
  - a. "[Telling The Stories Of A Bruised Body: Constructing A Typology For Religious Violence And Harm For Religious And Trauma Practitioners](#)" **Contact Indhira Udofia [[www.imudofia.com](http://www.imudofia.com)] for distribution or duplication**
  - b. "[Repentance and Repair: Holding Space for Queered Bodies in a Wounded Church: An Sociotheological Framework and Intervention for Religious Violence against LGBTQ Folks in the Black Church](#)" **Contact Indhira Udofia [[www.imudofia.com](http://www.imudofia.com)] for distribution or duplication**
- Rev. Dr. House's slides → "[The Afterlife of White Evangelical Purity Culture: Telling New Truths Between the "Is" and the "Ought"](#)" **Contact Rev. Dr. House [[khartthouse@gmail.com](mailto:khartthouse@gmail.com)] for distribution or duplication**
- [Embodied Practices](#) from today's gathering

## Resources

- [Open and Affirming in the UCC coalition](#)
- [Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education](#)
- [Mending the Wounds of A Bruised Body: A Resource Guide for Spiritual Trauma Survivors & Practitioners](#) by Mx. Indhira Udofia, LCSW, MDiv, MSW, STM
- [Tending Religious and Spiritual Trauma in Spiritual Care](#) by Mx. Indhira Udofia, LCSW, MDiv, MSW, STM
- [Purity Culture Research Collective](#)
- [After Purity Project](#)
- [The Purity Culture Dropout \(TM\) Project](#)
- [Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists](#)
- [Reclamation Collective](#)
- [Religious Trauma Institute](#)
- Learn more about Ashon Crawley - <https://ashoncrawley.com/>

## Podcasts

- [Pure to Pieces by Morgan McGill](#)
- [Straight White American Jesus](#)

## Articles

- Ellis, H. M., Hook, J. N., Zuniga, S., Hodge, A. S., Ford, K. M., Davis, D. E., & Van Tongeren, D. R. (2022, August 18). Religious/Spiritual Abuse and Trauma: A Systematic Review of the Empirical Literature. *Spirituality in Clinical Practice*. Advance online publication. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/scp0000301>
- Oakley, Kinmond, K., & Humphreys, J. (2018). Spiritual abuse in Christian faith settings: definition, policy and practice guidance. *The Journal of Adult Protection*, 20(3/4), 144–154. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JAP-03-2018-0005>
- Russell-Kraft, Stephanie, "Can Religion Give you PTSD: Meet 'exvangelicals' seeking therapy for religious trauma." *New Republic*, March 23, 2021. <https://newrepublic.com/article/161772/can-religion-give-ptsd>
- Ward. (2011). The lived experience of spiritual abuse. *Mental Health, Religion & Culture*, 14(9), 899–915. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13674676.2010.536206>

## Books

- [Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining](#) - Shelly Rambo
- [Resurrecting Wounds: Living in the Afterlife of Trauma](#) - Shelly Rambo
- [A Brief Guide to Ministry with LGBTQIA Youth](#)
- [Sacred Wounds: A Path to Healing from Spiritual Trauma](#)
- [Proverbs of Ashes : Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us](#)
- [Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology](#)
- [Virgin Nation: Sexual Purity and American Adolescence](#)
- [Red Lip Theology: For Church Girls Who've Considered Tithing to the Beauty Supply Store When Sunday Morning Isn't Enough](#)
- [Pure: Inside the Evangelical Movement that Shamed a Generation of Young Women and How I Broke Free](#)
- [Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God](#)
- [Leaving the Fold: A Guide for Former Fundamentalists and Others Leaving Their Religion](#)
- [The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse](#)
- Kathryn's dissertation, [The Afterlife of White Evangelical Purity Culture: Wounds, Legacies, and Impacts](#), is currently under an embargo (so not available online) while she pursues publication,, but please feel free to be in touch with her for further conversation.
- Ebook on [Trauma and Moral Injury](#), Chaplaincy Innovation Lab (authors - Shelly Rambo, Joseph Wiinikka-Lydon, and Jasmine Terry Okafo
- You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church... and Rethinking Faith - <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/10222837>
- [Postcolonial Images of Spiritual Care: Challenges of Care in a Neoliberal Age](#) by Emmanuel Y. Lartey, Hellena Moon
- [On Repentance And Repair By Danya Ruttenberg](#)

## Consultation Resources

### Decolonizing Queerness



**Resources/presentation on the need for anti-racism and cultural humility in conversations around queerness in the church**

**Presenter:** Madison Chau (she/her/hers)

Madison Chau is currently a dual-degree student at Boston University working toward her Masters of Divinity and Masters of Social Work. She is a Sacred Worth Fellow with the School of Theology and sits on the board of the queer student association, Sacred Worth.

**Presentation and Rates:** Madison is excited to offer her presentation to a wide variety of audiences within the Greater Boston Area or on Zoom and can tailor her presentation to fit a variety of needs. **Her rate is \$100 per hour and she offers sliding scale rates as she hopes to make this resource accessible to anyone who might be interested.**

**Contact Information:** If you're interested in having Madison come share her wisdom with you and your team, please reach out by email: [mchau@bu.edu](mailto:mchau@bu.edu)

### LGBTQIA+ 101



**Presenters:** Megan Strouse (she/they) and Jonathan Wisdom (he/him)

**Megan Strouse** holds a Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology. Additionally, they hold a graduate certificate in Interfaith Dialogue from Hartford International Seminary in Hartford, CT. She currently serves a United Church of Christ Parish in Belmont, MA working on discipleship and small group ministries.

**Jonathan Wisdom** holds an MA in Spiritual Care and Counseling and has completed 4 units of Clinical Pastoral Education. He is currently a dual-degree student at Boston University working to complete his Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work with a specialization in Trauma and Violence. After the completion of this program, he hopes to work on a PhD in Social Work to further research religious trauma within the Queer community and develop practices for working with this population.

**Presentation and Rates:** Megan and Jonathan are excited to work together to offer a resource to a wide range of audiences who are interested in learning more about the Queer community, church hurt in the Queer community, and having conversations about how to make spaces more welcoming and equitable for Queer people. Furthermore, if you're not sure what information you're looking for and not sure you want a whole presentation, they are willing to meet and answer questions discussing good ways to approach Queer issues and best practices for asking questions. **As team presenters, their rate is \$120 per hour and in hopes of making this presentation equitable and accessible, they offer sliding scale rates in hopes that cost doesn't become a barrier to conversation.** They are willing to present in-person in the Greater Boston Area and on Zoom.

**Contact Information:** Please reach out to either Megan at [mstrouse@bu.edu](mailto:mstrouse@bu.edu) or Jonathan at [jawisdom@bu.edu](mailto:jawisdom@bu.edu)



# Deep Listening Circles

Grow another root of your Queer & Trans community virtually by joining this 4-week intimate gathering of 6-8 people from across the country! Together we'll co-create a culture of care, joy, vulnerability, and connection as we dive into what needs to be spoken about from the heart of our lives in these times, laugh together, and learn from each other. New cohorts start every other month. [Click here to learn more about Deep Listening Circles.](#)

All members of the LGBTQIA+ community near and far are welcome to gather in this virtual space.

Share with LGBTQIA+ in your community or contact M [[m@mrudder.com](mailto:m@mrudder.com)] learn about partnering with us to bring Deep Listening Circles to your community.

## Queer Deep Listening Circle Dates

1. Thu 3/23/2023 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST
2. Thu 4/6/2023 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST
3. Thu 4/20/2023 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST
4. Thu 4/27/2023 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST



## Trans Deep Listening Circle Dates

1. Mon 3/20/2023 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EST
2. Mon 4/3/2023 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EST
3. Mon 4/17/2023 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EST
4. Mon 5/1/2023 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EST

Sliding Scale: \$8 – \$100 for the full series paid in advance; participants commit to attending all 4 circles.

[To register complete this form](#) OR contact M at [m@mrudder.com](mailto:m@mrudder.com)



**M Rudder (they/them/their).** I am Japanese-American, non-binary, trans, and queer individual currently living on unceded Pocumtuc/Nipmuc land. I hold an MSc. from Champlain College in Applied Conflict Studies with a concentration in Organizational Development, a BFA in Fibers & Textiles from Maryland Institute College of Art, and a certificate in Spiritual Direction from Still Harbor. I work with others to build empowered communication and to create resilient, inclusive, and vibrant lives, communities, and workplaces centering agency, connection, liberation, presence, and wholeness. I am passionate about social justice and promoting peace, healing, and transformation at the individual, community, organizational, and societal levels.



## Queer Spiritual Direction + Ritual and Ceremony

**Spiritual Direction:** I offer interfaith spiritual direction for LGBTQIA+ individuals and community groups. Spiritual Direction may support your exploration of various spiritual practices, deepen your relationship with what you find sacred, heal from religious trauma, or navigate life changes. Rooted deep in an understanding that you are the expert of your own experience, my role is to hold sacred space and support your exploration of your spirituality, faith journey, and meaning-making practices. I companion primarily with trans and queer people as you explore, question, discern, and celebrate.

**Ritual and Ceremony:** To honor you and stages of your journey. I offer both religious and non-religious ceremonies to celebrate various transitions and important moments, including: sacred re-namings, rituals for Queer High Holy Days, weddings, poly unions, and more!

## Healing From Religious Harm Facilitation

**Healing Religious Harm:** Whether you are an individual or group who has experienced harm, or part of an institution that has caused spiritual harm, it can be difficult to know where to begin the healing journey. I offer one-on-one consultations and group facilitation for individuals and religious communities seeking to heal religious and spiritual harm. I often partner with other facilitators from various backgrounds and experiences depending on your community needs.



**Presenter:** Rev. Mel Pace (she/they)

I am a queer minister and certified spiritual director, and I am ordained by the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC); a denomination founded by and for the queer community.

**Rate:** My rate is \$100 per hour for individual spiritual direction, and \$20 per person for groups. I offer a sliding scale to help make Spiritual Direction accessible regardless of access to financial resources. Rates for ceremonies vary. Rates for healing harm facilitation varies.

Email me at [melpacemap@gmail.com](mailto:melpacemap@gmail.com) or visit my website [here](#) to learn more.