Race in the 21st Century
Ecumenical Racial Justice Conference
Hosted by
North Central California Presbytery & Northern California Nevada Conference, UCC
**April 24-25, 2026**

Location:
Sierra Vista Community Church 890 Morse Avenue (Morse & Northrop) Sacramento, CA 95864.

Theme:
Passion, Mission, Righteousness, and a Heart to Love Our Neighbor. Focus:
Ecumenical Racial & Immigration Justice Collaboration

Vision Statement:
To cultivate a just and loving society where universities, churches, and communities unite to dismantle racial and economic inequities through education, faith, and action, upholding the dignity of every person.
We stand in solidarity with universities under threat for their work advancing equity, accessibility, and inclusive excellence. We reject financial adversity actions that undermine these commitments.

Mission Statement:
To empower academic institutions and Interfaith Communities to lead transformative racial justice initiatives by:
• Fostering collaboration with community agencies
• Addressing disparities in student retention and academic success
• Confronting race-based and income-based economic barriers
• Equipping participants with tools for advocacy, healing, and systemic change
• Encouraging churches to center justice, dignity, and compassion in their ministries
• Creating dialogue between students and churches to foster mutual understanding and support.
• Advancing racial, immigration, and accessibility-based equity in education, housing, and legal protections.

## Please see the tentative schedule below!

**April 24th Friday - Dinner with the University**
**Location: Fellowship Hall**

Theme: **The University as a Leader in Advancing Racial Justice.**

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| 4:00 p.m. | Registration Opens (SVCC Team) + Exhibitors Set up |
| 5:30·6:00 p.m. | Dinner Buffet & Informal Welcome (SVCC Congregational Care Team) |
| 6:05 PM - 6:15 p.m. | Formal Welcome and Theme Introduction (Rev. Dr. Davena Creer-Jones) |
| 6:20 PM - 6:25 p.m. | Introducing Sac State University Leaders (Dr. Beatrice Russell) |
| 6:30- 6:45 p.m. | Greetings from Sac State and possibly addressing racial justice issues. **Dean Dr. Gladys Francis (TENTATIVE)**. |
| 7:00·7:30 p.m. | Director Andrew Yang - Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Student Academic Success & Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP) |
| 7:30·8:30 PM | Panel title: Retention, Academic Success & Immigration Justice Students and Administrators Panel Leader : Director Andrew Yang - Director, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Center |

**Student Academic Success & Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP)**

(This panel will explore strategies and challenges related to student retention, academic success, and immigration justice, bringing together diverse perspectives from students & administrators.)

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|---|---|
| 8:30-8:35 p.m. | Thank you, students. Ms. MeLinda LaViene and Dr. Dale Russell. |
| 8:30·9:00 p.m. | Meet & Greet: Saturday Speakers & Workshop Leaders (Rev.v. Ramos) |
| 9:00 p.m. | Closing Blessing (Rev. Dr. Davena Creer- Jones |

**Saturday, 4/25/2026 ·**

**Locations: Sanctuary & Breakout Rooms**

Theme: The Interfaith Communities as Catalysts for Racial and Immigration Justice

7:30 AM Continental Breakfast (SVCC Congregational Care Team) + Exhibitors Set up

8:30 AM Opening Rev. Karen Sapio.

8:40 AM Welcome. Rev. Dr. Davena Creer-Jones

9:00·10:15 AM Keynote Sermon

Rev. Dr. Deborah Lee Immigration Justice & Faith-Based Advocacy.

10:15·10:30 AM Coffee Break (SVCC Team)

10:30·11:45 AM Concurrent Workshops #1:

**Homelessness as a Racial Justice Issue: The Right to Exist Screening**

Professor Dr. Arturo Baiocchi (Sacramento State University, CA)

Mr. Nick Anderson, Film Director and owner of BrightCoast Production

**Racial Justice in Mental Health Across California**

Rev. Dr. Toni Dunbar.

**White Privilege is not a curse word**

Rev. Rhina Ramos (She, Hers) Northern California Nevada, United Church of Christ

11:45 AM·1:00 PM Lunch & Networking (SVCC Team) + Exhibitors

1:00·2:00 PM Keynote Address: Rev. Deborah Lee.

2:00·2:30 PM Q&A with Keynote Speaker

2:30·3:45 PM Concurrent Workshops #2:

**Homelessness as a Racial Justice Issue: The Right to Exist Screening**

Professor Dr. Arturo Baiocchi (Sacramento State University, CA)

**Racial Justice in Mental Health Across California**

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Rev. Rhina Ramos (She, Hers).

Associate Conference Minister of Justice & Witness and Anti-Racism, NCNC UCC

4:00 PM Closing Blessing. (Rev. Dr. Davena Jones)

4:10 – 5:10 PM. Follow -up with Exhibitors (Tenative)

**Sunday**, **4/26/2026**

**Closing Worship**

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM. Pastor Charlotte Asher

A Heart to Love Our Neighbor: Closing Worship for Justice and Healing (LCJP Mission Work).

12:15 PM- 1:00 PM: Potluck and LCJP Mission Work Group Report

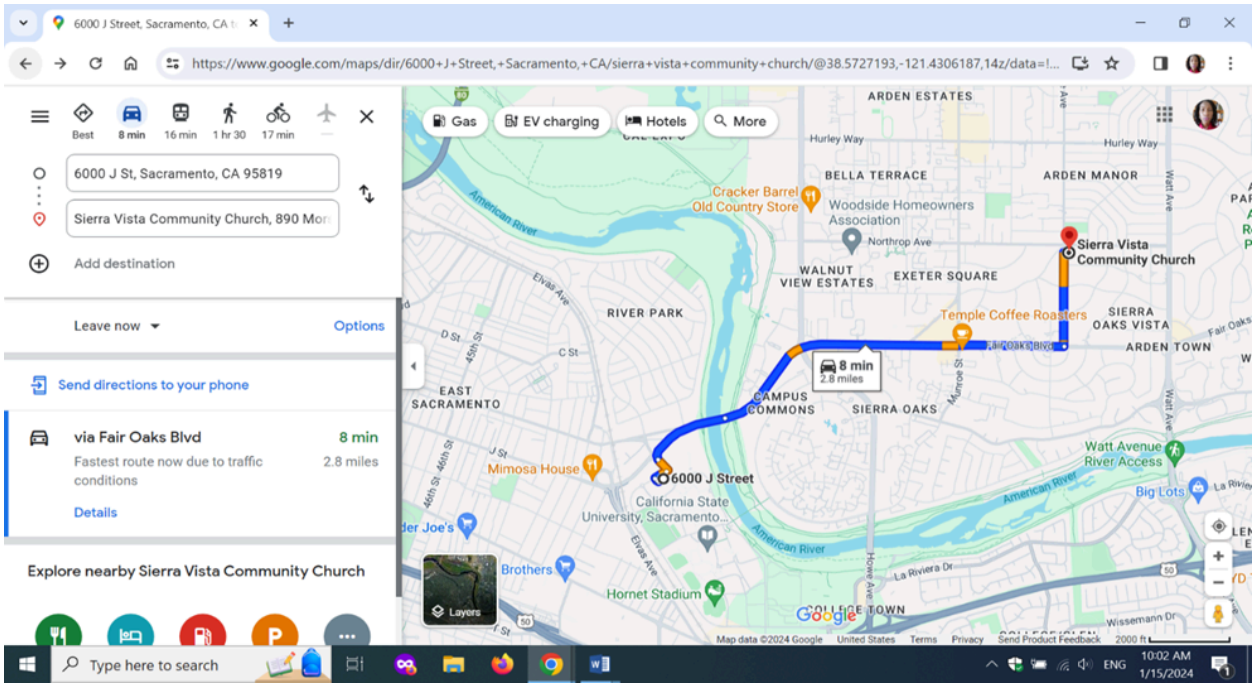
**Conference Exhibitors**

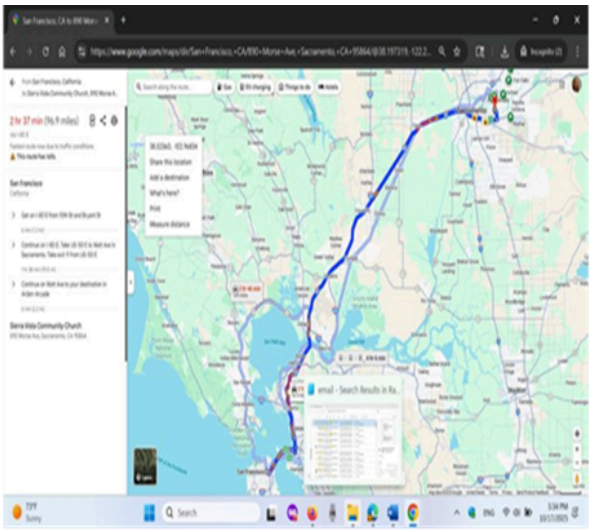
**(Booths located in the Fellowship Hall)**

- Nick Anderson – BrightCoast Production
- Edrine Ddungu – Little Children of Jesus Program & Burundi Education Mission
- Angella Hassell – Loaves and Fishes
- Sheryl Johnson – Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
- Stacey Alt – Race and Gender Equity Project
- Genelle Smith – Wellspring Women's Center

**Driving Directions from:**

**Sac State University to Sierra Vista Community Church, Sacramento, Ca**




**Driving Directions from the Bay Area (San Francisco, CA) to Sierra Vista Community Church**
**890 Morse Avenue (Morse & Northrop) Sacramento, CA 95864**.

1. Start in San Francisco, CA
2. Get on I-80 East from downtown
3. Continue on I-80 E toward Sacramento
4. Take Exit 10 for Howe Avenue
5. Turn left onto Howe Avenue
6. Turn right onto Northrop Avenue
7. Turn left onto Morse Avenue
8. Sierra Vista Community Church will be on your right at 890 Morse Avenue