

Our Regional Assembly Speakers 2018

Rev. Sandhya Jha

serves as founder and director of the Oakland Peace Center, a collective of 40 organizations creating access, equity and dignity for all in Oakland and the Bay Area. Rev. Jha's commitments to interfaith and interracial work were shaped by her Scottish (Presbyterian) mother and Indian (Hindu) father.

Former pastor of First Christian Church of Oakland and former Director of Interfaith Programs at East Bay Housing Organizations, Rev. Jha is the author of Room at the Table, the history of people of color in the Disciples of Christ, and Pre-Post-Racial America: Spiritual Stories from the Front Lines on the subject of race and spirituality in America



Rev. Dr. Timothy M. James

serves as the Associate General Minister and Administrative Secretary of the National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. Prior to serving in this post, Rev. James served as pastor at Fifth Christian Church Cleveland, Ohio for twenty-five years.

Rev. James is a graduate of United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH; Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Culver-Stockton-College in Canton, MO; and Alameda Community College in Alameda, CA. Rev. James is a third generation Disciples of Christ preacher. He will, however, be the first to say that he appreciates this family lineage and heritage, but he understands, this is not a criteria for salvation. He is glad to be able to say, "I know Jesus for myself."



Blanca Isabel Puma Martinez

Blanca is a native Quiteña and brings with her more than 13 years of experience at FEDICE, first as Project Coordinator and now as Executive Director. As the fearless leader of FEDICE's staff and volunteers, Blanca heads up community relations, donor relations, communications, program development and staff management — applying a healthy dose of creativity and determination to every task she takes on. Blanca has a degree in Medical Technology & Environmental Sanitation from the Central University of Ecuador. Recently FEDICE has been working with earthquake recovery efforts in Ecuador in partnership with Week of Compassion.

Blanca lives with her husband, Luis, in Quito, Ecuador.

