

# Reconciliation Offering 2025



## 2024 Reconciliation Ministry Grant Recipient Brite Divinity School - Center for Theology and Justice



The Center for Theology and Justice at Brite Divinity School at TCU received a 2024 grant from Reconciliation Ministry with support from the Oreon E. Scott Foundation. A student-led launch event was held on April 11th, 2024, at the Robert Carr Chapel in Fort Worth, Texas. The launch program included introductions by the center's inaugural Fellow, Erma Sinclair-Davis, and presentations from Center for Theology and Justice Executive Director, Rev Dr. Jerme L. Williams.

The Alumni Excellence award to the now pastor of University Christian Church Rio Grande Valley, Rev. Ali Lopez-Valcarcel, for her work in the borderlands with migrant communities. Transform 1012 N. Main St., a renowned community organization establishing The Fred Rouse Center for Arts and Community Healing in Fort Worth Texas, was presented with the Community Impact award for their efforts to transform the city's former Ku Klux Klan headquarters into a community-centered pentacle of healing and justice. The keynote address was given by Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas. Over 150 ministers, organizers, artists, academics, and community members attended the event.

The launch of the Center for Theology and Justice was an example of the trifold pillars of the CTJ that include affirming and expanding student-centered spiritual and intellectual efforts toward justice, amplifying the work of congregations and community organizations committed to justice in and beyond Fort Worth, and serving as a coalition-building space for all these entities to build toward a brighter future where abundant life is accessible and possible for God's creation.

In June, the CTJ held a colloquium entitled UnMapping the Kingdom of God. Over thirty students and community members were present. The following papers were read:

- *Abolishing the Kingdom: Re-reading Basileia tou Theou as Divine Homespace*, Dr. Jeremy L. Williams (Brite Divinity School)
- *A Woman, a Ghost, and a Throne: A Necro-ethical Reading of Davidic Ideology and the Kingdom of God*, Dr. Minenhle Nomalungelo Khumalo (Seton Hall University)
- *The Sandbox of God: Kingdom of God as Playground in the Sayings Gospel Q*, Dr. Brian Bunnell (Furman University)
- *Reading Revelation "Latinamente"*, Gonzalo R. Alers Rivera (Drew University)
- *Already You Have All That You Want: Paul's Minoritized Vision of the Kingdom in 1 Corinthians 1-4 and White Christian Nationalism*, Dr. Demetrius K. William (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)
- *Simplicity, Complexity, and Kingdom Business*, Dr. Febbie C. Dickerson (American Baptist College)
- *Consuming Cornelius: The Gastro-Colonial Machination of Acts 10*, Dr. Dong Hyeon Jeong (Garrett Theological Seminary)
- *The Kingdom of God and the Rhetoric of Exclusion in 1 Corinthians*, Dr. Ekaputra Tupamahu (George Fox/Portland Seminary)
- *Kingdom Coming*, Dr. Eric A. Thomas (General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church)