



***North American Hindu Chaplains Association
2021 Annual Conference “Presence and Possibility”
Conference Program Day 1***

Saturday September 25, 2021

- 10:00 AM **Svaagatam! Welcome, introductions, overview & roadmap of the conference**
- 10:45 AM **Keynote “Caring for the Caregiver: A Dharmic Perspective”**
Dr. Aparna Ramaswamy, Ed.D, Ph.D, Johns Hopkins University School of Education and
Founding Director of the DhIA Foundation, Interim Director of Dharmic Life, Georgetown
University
Moderator: Ms. Shamā Mehtā, BCC, Certified Educator Candidate and Staff Chaplain,
University of Michigan Health System
- 11:45 AM **Break/Lunch**
- 12:00 PM Optional lunch for NAHCA members; Zoom link will be provided
- 12:45 PM **Healthcare Panel session: Why CPE?**

Panel Speakers:
 Ms. Aarti Ahuja, Hospital Chaplain, Saint Joseph Mercy Hospital
 Ms. Allegra Lovejoy, MDiv/MEM candidate at Yale Divinity School and Yale School
 of the Environment
 Ms. Deepti Scharf, MACM candidate, St. Mary’s Ecumenical Institute
Moderator: Ms. Shamā Mehtā
- 2:15 PM **Announcements and Break**
- 3:00 PM **Possibilities Session**
Join the NAHCA Board for a session for ideas, suggestions and dreams moving forward in the
field. An opportunity to hear what is on participants’ minds. In the NAHCA Inaugural Conference,
the discussions highlighted the need for a discipline standard definition of the qualifications for
professional Hindu Spiritual Care Providers.

Highlight: overview of NAHCA document “Hindu Chaplains: Requisite Qualifications for
Professionals and Volunteers”
- 4:00 PM **Closing, reminders for Sunday & Zoom meet ups as requested**



*North American Hindu Chaplains Association
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Sunday September 26, 2021

10:00 AM **Check in, introductions, overview of the day, and presentations by partnering organizations**

10:45 AM **Keynote “(Re)Queering Hinduism: Embracing the Presence and Possibility within our Dharmic Traditions and Teachings”**

Dr. Raja Bhattar, Higher education strategist, advocate, and artist
Moderator: Dr. Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Advisor, Tufts University

11:45 AM **Break/Lunch**

12:45 PM **Social Justice Roundtable**

"Serving Community with Authenticity"

Leader: Mr. Reggie Hubbard, Founder/Chief Serving Officer of Active Peace Yoga
Moderator: Dr. Preeta Banerjee

Join Reggie for a discussion about compassion for self and others rooted in the notion of alleviating suffering in the world. As we each do our part, there is a need for boldness, authenticity, and humility in serving our respective communities. Together we can re-imagine our relation toward issues of social justice.

2:15 PM **Announcements and Break**

3:00 PM **Possibilities Session**

Join the NAHCA Board for an open session for ideas, suggestions and dreams moving forward in the field. An opportunity to hear what is on participants' minds. In the NAHCA Inaugural Conference, the discussions highlighted the desire for a template on interfaith engagement from a Dharmic lens for professional Hindu Spiritual Care Providers.

Highlight: overview of NAHCA's document “Dharmic Guidelines for Interreligious Dialogue.”

4:00 PM **Closing & Thanks**