



*North American Hindu Chaplains Association  
2022 Annual Conference*

**विवेक**

**“Viveka: Discerning Ourselves and Our Work”  
Conference Program Saturday November 12, 2022**

***Conference Meeting Spaces***

[Barnum Hall](#) RABB 100 (main conference venue)

[Tufts Interfaith Center](#) (available during breaks)

[Goddard Chapel](#) (available during breaks)

\* All sessions are hybrid except for those marked with an asterisk. Please note a photographer will be on premises during Saturday opening and keynote and keynote and box lunch on Sunday.

**Venue: Barnum Hall RABB 100** - look for the elephant statue and sign for the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life!

**10:00 AM Opening Prayer and Welcoming Remarks**

Dr. Asha Shipman, NAHCA Chair and Director of Hindu Life, Yale University  
Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain, Tufts University

**11:00 AM Keynote: “Discerning the Illusion of Religious Equality in America with Khyati Joshi, author of *White Christian Privilege*”**

Dr. Khyati Joshi, founder of the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice and professor of Education at Fairleigh Dickinson University

Moderator: Dr. Lucinda Mosher, Senior Scholar for Executive and Professional Education, Faculty Associate in Interfaith Studies, Co-Director, MA in Chaplaincy

***Keynote sponsored by The Chaplaincy Innovation Lab & Hartford International University for Religion and Peace***

**11:45 AM Break (Vote for 2:00 PM Watch Party Webinar)**

**12:00 PM Panel Session: “A therapist, a life coach, a monk, and a clinically trained chaplain walk into a room...”**

Identifying these different modalities and how they can inter-relate, especially from the care-recipient perspective.

Panel Speakers:

Therapist: Kavita Pallod-Sekhsaria, founder, KPS Psychotherapy and Hindu Chaplain, American University

Life Coach: Dr Raj Balkaran, Founder, [School of Indian Wisdom](#), Chaplain of Indian Spirituality McMaster University

Monk: Swami Tyagananda, Resident Swami of the [Vedanta Society in Boston](#), Hindu chaplain, Harvard University and MIT.

Clinically trained chaplain: Shama Mehta BCC, Certified Educator Candidate, Staff Chaplain, University of Michigan Health System

Moderator: Mr. Vineet Chander, Assistant Dean, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Director of Princeton's Hindu Life Program, Princeton

*Panel session is sponsored by the Princeton Hindu Life Program*

1:00 PM **Boxed Lunch\***

2:00 PM **Option 1: Workshop on Vocational Writing and Reflection**

Join Rev. Dr. Monica Sanford and Dr. Preeta Banerjee as we navigate what we do, how we listen, and how our self-identification influences our chaplaincy.

Workshop Leaders:

Rev. Dr. Monica Sanford, Assistant Dean for Multireligious Ministry and Buddhist Chaplain, Harvard Divinity School

Dr. Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Chaplain, Tufts University

**Option 2:** Watch party (Webinar chosen at break)

**Option 3\*:** *Time for Reflection - visit our Interfaith Center, Goddard Chapel, take a restorative walk, schedule a 1:1 conversation with a colleague at the conference.*

4:45 PM **Break**

5:00 PM **Updates and Presentations: professional training and credentialing Opportunities** Rabb 100

1. **Hindu ministry course at Harvard Divinity School:** Father Francis X. Clooney, Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology, Harvard Divinity School and Swami Tyagananda, Resident Swami, Boston Vedanta Society and Hindu Chaplain, Harvard
2. **Interreligious Peace and Studies programs Hartford International University for Religion & Peace:** Dr. Lucinda Mosher
3. **Chinmaya International Foundation Hindu Chaplaincy Courses:** Acharya Vilasini Bala, Chinmaya Mission, Ms. Shamā Mehtā and Dr. Madhu Sharma, ret. Hindu Chaplain, Duke University
4. **Graduate Theological Union (GTU) Interreligious Chaplaincy Course:** Dr. Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Director, Interreligious Chaplaincy and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology, GTU
5. **Hindu Community Institute (HCI) Counselor of Hindu Tradition course + Motwani Jadeja Foundation (MJF) grant:** Dr. Kailash Joshi, President and Resident Faculty, HCI and Mr. Gaurav Rastogi, Dean and Resident Faculty, HCI.

6:00 PM **Dinner** Rabb 100

MC'd by Vineet Chander, a salon-style dinner featuring prompts (to be emailed to our virtual community who are invited to bring your eagerness to a Zoom dinner room).

*Dinner sponsored by the Yale University Chaplain's Office*



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**विवेक**

***“Viveka: Discerning Ourselves and Our Work”  
Conference Program Sunday November 13, 2022***

**Venue: Barnum Hall RABB 100** - look for the elephant statue and sign for the Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life!

10:00 AM **Coffee, Tea**

10:30 AM **Opening and Welcoming Remarks**

Dr. Asha Shipman, NAHCA Chair and Director of Hindu Life, Yale University  
Rev. Elyse Nelson Winger, University Chaplain, Tufts University

11:00 AM **Keynote: “Restorative Justice: a multifaith indigenous healing modality fostering community discernment, equity, and love.**

Dr. Melissa Wood Bartholomew, Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Harvard Divinity School

Moderator: Dr. Preeta Banerjee, Hindu Chaplain, Tufts University

*Keynote sponsored by Auburn Theological Seminary*

12:00 PM **Boxed Lunch** (*Vote for Watch Party Webinar*)\*

1:30 PM -  
3:00 PM

**Workshop blocks**

**Option 1: Workshop on Restorative Justice - Community Building Focus\***

Rev. Kate Smanik, Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life, Colby College will lead a Restorative Justice Circle. First-hand knowledge in this indigenous practice will deepen understanding and become a potential tool for Hindu chaplains to introduce into their communities.

**Option 2: Watch party** (Webinar chosen at lunch break)

**Option 3\*:** *Time for Reflection - visit our Interfaith Center, Goddard Chapel, take a restorative walk, schedule a 1:1 conversation with a colleague at the conference.*

3:15 PM **Closing Prayer and Gratitude**