

# COMMUNITY INDABA

## FACILITATORS BIOS



Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson is the Coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee of the Self-Development of People Program (SDOP) Presbyterian Church (USA). Rev. Johnson has 25 years of experience in missional church studies, urban, congregational based organizing, youth/education, creative arts, peacemaking, anti-poverty, and social justice ministries. Rev. Johnson pastored an urban congregation and trained in both Systems Theory and Missional Church in the Presbytery in Philadelphia. He was also a volunteer chaplain in prison ministry for 9 years. He has a BA from Bloomfield College, NJ, and an MDiv and DMin from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



Amos Izerimana is the Director of International and Immigrant Affairs for Louisville Metro Government where he is responsible for promoting equity, welcoming initiatives, and inclusion of immigrant and refugee communities. Amos previously served over two years as Program Manager and Interim Director of the Office for Globalization where he led the city to become re-designated as Certified Welcoming, spearheaded efforts to develop Louisville Metro's language access infrastructure, and led Covid-19 pandemic recovery programs with community partners and immigrant-owned businesses.

In addition to various roles with Initiatives of Change Switzerland and volunteer work with Louisville's immigrant communities, Amos previously served as a legal assistant at a local immigration Law firm advocating for individuals in removal proceedings and reuniting families.

He holds a master's degree in International Law from the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, a master's degree in Conflict Resolution from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, and a liberal arts degree in Peace and Social Justice Studies from Berea College. A native of Burundi, Amos was resettled to Louisville in 2007 after spending twelve years in a Tanzanian refugee camp.

Amos enjoys traveling, reading, and learning about new cultures through music, cuisine, and dance. He speaks English, Kirundi, Swahili, Kinyarwanda, and elementary French.



Margaret Mwale is Associate for Community Development and Constituent Relations with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Self-Development of People (SDOP) program. She oversees National SDOP's community engagement efforts and the grant process for local SDOP committees. Margaret is excited to bring grantee partners and national SDOP together to move people and places out of poverty by working with community-based organizations/non-profits on their community-based solutions that ensure they are centered in their projects decision-making process. She believes communities and organizations are full of potential, creativity and innovation and is dedicated to helping them thrive.

Margaret has previously served as Coordinator of Neighborhood outreach in Mobile, AL with a Presbyterian congregation and as Director of Admissions with a university in Indianapolis, IN. Currently she serves on the board of directors of the Dougbe River School of Liberia (Africa) and co-chairs its Strategic Planning Committee. She also serves on the Americana World Community Center board of directors in Louisville, KY, and on its Advancement Committee. Margaret has a master's degree in Economics from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree in Education also from EIU. She holds a BA in Economics from Bluffton University. She is a native of Zambia and has lived in Louisville since 2005.



Oremeyi Kareem was born and raised in Nigeria, which is located in West Africa. In 1997, she made the move to the United States and settled in Kentucky. She has worked as both a nurse and an entrepreneur, and she has a strong interest in expressing stories in a visual format. She is deeply committed to making a difference in the lives of women. She is married and blessed with three children.

Founder and CEO of VOME' Magazine, President of Reconnecting the Great Diaspora, and Executive Director of Kentuckiana Africans United in Louisville, Kareem is a visionary. Due to her community service, she has a lot of authority and experience. Oremeyi was the first woman and youngest president of ACF Louisville, Kentucky, and ACF Midwest, a US non-profit.

Her group, IN the Zone, mentors and inspires many young women. She helps women discover and develop their purpose, gifts, and talents. She is a motivational speaker and host. Oremeyi Kareem is the host of her podcast Quintessential Rebel and a TEDx speaker.

She loves traveling and wants to host a travel program. Leadership Focus Louisville, Fund for the Arts NeXt gen, Bellarmine University's Woman of Color Initiative, and the Office of Globalization's Welcome Academy are among Kareem's successful community service and leadership programs. She featured in Choke Hold, a Hollywood-Nollywood-Caribbean film.

She appeared in Marquis' "Who's Who in America." She received a declaration from Mayor Greg Fischer declaring June 4 as Oremeyi Kareem/VOME' Day in Louisville, Kentucky.

Governor Andy Beshear awarded Mrs. Kareem the highest civilian honor and Kentucky Colonel rank. Honorable Kareem serves on the Louisville Black Tourism Advisory Council and ACF Louisville leadership council of elders. She previously served on the NeXt gen board. She received the Bridging the Gap Service Award, Hopez Magazine Diaspora Connector of the Year Award, and the ACF Leadership Award three times. She became Louisville Tourism Ambassador recently.



Dr. Henry R. Cunningham is the inaugural Director of Community Engagement at the University of Louisville where he co-founded and co-directed the International Service Learning Program. He initiated several programs at the University of Louisville including Student Philanthropy, The Community-based Learning Institute, and the annual Engaged Scholarship Symposium, all of which focus on addressing community issues. He has extensive background in international and community development, having conducted developmental

work in several countries. He was assigned to the United Nations where he worked with international leaders focusing on sustainable development in developing countries. Dr. Cunningham currently teaches a community-based learning course, enabling students to engage with the immigrant community. He has published articles and book chapters on community engagement. He co-edited a book Library Collaborations and Community Partnerships: Enhancing Health and Quality of Life, which was published in 2020.