

COME TO THE TABLE

A Project of RAFI & NC Council of Churches
Supported by the Duke Endowment

Thursday, May 28

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Elon Community Church
Elon, NC

FELLOWSHIP



Engaging and mobilizing people of faith and farmers to
relieve hunger through just and sustainable agriculture.

rafiusa.org/cttt

KNOWLEDGE NETWORKING



ABOUT

Come To The Table Conference

Since 2007, people throughout North Carolina have gathered together for regional Come to the Table Conferences. These full-day events bring together members of the faith community with farmers, gardeners, farm workers, educators, health professionals, and community organizations to find ways to relieve hunger and support local agriculture.

These conferences include keynote plenaries, topical workshop sessions, lunch, and networking opportunities. We hope you thoroughly enjoy this year's content!

Come To The Table Sponsors

The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA's mission is to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms. RAFI works nationally and internationally, focusing on North Carolina and the southeastern United States.



The **North Carolina Council of Churches** enables denominations, congregations, and people of faith to individually and collectively impact North Carolina on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, compassion and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ.



North Carolina
Council of Churches

The Duke Endowment Based in Charlotte, and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Duke".

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

2015 Come To The Table Conference Theme

HEAD, HEART, AND HANDS

The theme for our conferences this year is **Head, Heart, and Hands**. This theme was chosen to encourage participants to think holistically and act powerfully as **YOU** strive to create a more just, accessible, and healthy food system. Each of the workshop sessions fall into one of these three categories, emphasizing knowledge & analysis (HEAD), inspiration through faith and compassion (HEART), and tools and techniques for your work (HANDS). Look for the icons next to the titles in the schedule.



HEAD



HEART



HANDS

Keynote Speaker

DR. PSYCHE WILLIAMS-FORSON

Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland College Park and an affiliate faculty member of the Women's Studies and African American Studies departments and the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity. She is co-editor (with Carole Counihan) of *Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World* (Routledge 2011) and author of the award-winning *Building Houses Out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food, and Power* (2006). Her new research focuses on food shaming and food policing in and among communities of color.



AGENDA

Theme	Details
	8:00-8:45 Registration
	8:45-9:00: Welcome: Francesca Hyatt, Scott Marlow
	9:00-9:45: Opening Session: Rev. Prince R. Rivers - "Bread for the Journey"
	9:45-10:00 » Break & Networking
	10-11:15 — Session One Room 1: Agriculture in the South: A History Lesson and Implications for the Food Movement [Scott Marlow, Justin Walker, Annette Hiatt] Room 2: Farmers vs. Food Security: Why are hungry people and food producers often pitted against each other? [Viola Glenn, Gini Bell, Jane Saiers, Helen Eure] Room 3: You Feed Them: Models of Local Faith Communities Relieving Hunger [Shannon Axtell Martin, Linda Anderson, Jeff Moran] Room 4: Organizing a Church-Supported, Sliding Scale CSA [Julia Sendor] Room 5: Housing the Homeless and Feeding the Hungry in Alamance County [Kim Crawford, Shannon Smith]
	
	
	
	
	11:15 - 11:30 » Break & Networking
	11:30-12:15: Lunch & Music provided by Roots Revival Prayer of Thanksgiving - Jennie Wilburn, NC Council of Churches
	12:15 - 1:00: Lunch Session: Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsen "Well, the answer is ... we all need to grow our own food: Race, Class and the Fine Line Between Food Instruction and Food Policing"
	1:00 - 1:15 » Break & Networking
	1:15-2:30 — Session Two Room 1: Funding that builds community engagement and program longevity [Kristen Richardson-Frick, Zulayka Santiago, Jeff Bacon] Room 2: Congregations and Communities: Making Change that Lasts [Scott Marlow, Rev. Grace Hackney] Room 3: Beyond Hunger Relief: Barriers and Opportunities in Farm Based Food Access Initiatives [Francesca Hyatt, Jesalyn Keziah, Tim Williams] Room 4: Fertile Partnerships: Faith Communities and Local Food Councils [Marcus Hill, Cary Kanoy, Grace Kanoy, Marianne LeGreco] Room 5: Gardening in Community and in Faith [Donna Poe, Cindy Shetter]
	
	
	
	
	2:30-3:00 » Tour of Elon Community Church Farmers Market & Refreshments
	3:00-4:15 — Session Three Room 1: In-Depth Discussion with Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsen [Dr. Psyche Williams-Forsen] Room 2: Local Food Access and SNAP/EBT at Farmers' Markets [Salem Neff, Jenny Elander, Margaret Krome-Lukens] Room 3: Feed the People with Love, then Food [Vimala Rajendran, Karen Ladd] Room 4: Fermentation and Sacred Transformation [Jacob Levin, Rachael Graber] Room 5: Embodying Shalom: Framing Food Discussions in Faith Communities [Mark Jensen]
	
	
	
	
	4:15-5:00 Closing Session: Chas Edens "Good Work as Worship: Transforming Our Churches and Neighborhoods Through a Liturgy of Farming" Thank You & Wrap Up: Francesca Hyatt

SESSION 1

10:00-11:15

Agriculture in the South: A History Lesson and Implications for the Food Movement

Agriculture has changed significantly over the past 50 years, from the average size of a farm, the type of crops, the way they are marketed and who's working the land. Hear stories and learn trends in agriculture including the farm crisis of the 1980s, discrimination and land loss among minority farmers, current demographics of farms in North Carolina, and what these trends mean for the food movement. Plus, hear stories from a multi-generational farm in Caswell County, NC!



- **Scott Marlow** - RAFI-USA
- **Justin Walker** - Double J Farm
- **Annette Hiatt** - Land Loss Prevention Project

Farmers vs. Food Security: Why are hungry people and food producers often pitted against each other?

Whether it's a school system choosing between buying apples from Sysco vs. the farm down the road, or Congress deciding how to divide the pie between farm supports and the SNAP program, advocates for hunger relief and advocates for sustainable agriculture often find themselves on opposing sides. In this session, you'll hear from a Child Nutrition Director about her considerations when making decisions about sourcing produce and from agriculture advocates about the cost of production for common fruits and vegetables. Plus, learn about projects that are building bridges between these groups and from a farmer that is participating!



- **Viola Glenn** - RAFI-USA
- **Gini Bell** - Farmer Foodshare
- **Helen Eure** - Hertford County Public Schools
- **Jane Saiers** - RambleRill Farm

You Feed Them: Models of Local Faith Communities Relieving Hunger

When the disciples petitioned Jesus to send the crowds away to find food, Jesus responded "You give them something to eat!" How can this Bible passage, Luke 9:13, motivate and inspire us to feed the multitudes in our communities? Join us to hear about two innovative projects that are



using local food to help relieve hunger. You will hear what project leaders do, how they do it, and how they got started. You will also hear about Partners in Health and Wholeness and opportunities faith communities have to receive funding and resources to support projects such as these.

- **Shannon Axtell Martin** - NC Council of Churches
- **Linda Anderson** - Guilford County Share the Harvest
- **Jeff Moran** - House Gardens Greening Project

Organizing a Church-Supported, Sliding Scale CSA



Anathoth's HarvestShare program is an income-inclusive Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. Participants receive weekly boxes of fresh vegetables and fruit, and often bread. Through donations from churches and other HarvestShare participants, the program offers half of all CSA shares for no cost. Produce is raised with help from high school employees of the Open Hands and from adult summer interns, who learn the skills to start and sustain agrarian ministries in their own communities. Julia Sendor, HarvestShare Coordinator, will discuss growing practices; how they engage HarvestShare participants and identify households that need free boxes; how they hire, pay, and teach employees and interns; and how HarvestShare has evolved as a way to sustain the garden while living out Anathoth's mission to cultivate peace.

- **Julia Sendor** - Anathoth Community Garden and Farm

Housing the Homeless and Feeding The Hungry in Alamance County

This workshop will feature Allied Churches of Alamance County and provide context and content for what hunger looks like in Alamance County. The workshop will focus not just on the challenges of the homeless and those who face food insecurity, but will share with participants how collaboration between Alamance County's faith, nonprofit, and other community stakeholders come together to address hunger and homelessness.



- **Kim Crawford** - Allied Churches of Alamance County
- **Shannon Smith** - Allied Churches of Alamance County

SESSION 2

1:15-2:30

Funding that builds community engagement and program longevity

What is the role of funding in faith and community based projects? Why do many funders encourage their grantees to strive to become self-sustaining, and what does that mean? In this session, participants will hear the perspective of a foundation program officer, along with stories of unique funding models including a worker-owned grocery cooperative in Raleigh and a culinary skills training program housed at Second Harvest Food Bank in Winston Salem.



- **Kristen Richardson-Frick** - The Duke Endowment
- **Zulayka Santiago** - Fertile Ground Food Cooperative
- **Jeff Bacon** - Triad Community Kitchen

Congregations and Communities: Making Change that Lasts

In this session, seasoned change-makers will share principles of community organizing and strategies for building partnerships with diverse groups. You'll hear an old favorite story of organizing farmers to bring their tractors to Washington DC to stop farm foreclosures, along with hearing how a congregation and a community came together after a tragedy. Participants will have a chance to raise questions and discuss issues from their communities.



- **Rev. Grace Hackney** - Life Around the Table
- **Scott Marlow** - RAFI-USA

Beyond Hunger Relief: Barriers and Opportunities in Farm Based Food Access Initiatives

RAFI-USA and the Resourceful Communities Program have partnered on a multi-year participatory research project to better understand barriers, opportunities and trends in food access initiatives that prioritize fresh, local food. In this session participants will hear about current state and national efforts to connect low income consumers with farmers, as



well as learn about community-based projects in NC that use innovative approaches to alleviate food insecurity in their communities, including the story of the Chopped Produce Initiative. CPI supplies area school systems with ready to use farm fresh produce.

- **Francesca Hyatt** - RAFI-USA
- **Jesalyn Keziah** - Resourceful Communities
- **Tim Williams** - Chopped Produce Initiative

Fertile Partnerships: Faith Communities and Local Food Councils

Hear from local food councils representing three distinct communities within the Piedmont region and how the formation of fertile partnerships among faith communities, county health departments, nonprofits, and concerned citizens are addressing social problems related to broken food systems. The session's panelists will provide participants with insights based on the real world experiences of addressing local food policy through local food councils.



- **Marcus Hill** - Forsyth Community Food Consortium
- **Cary Kanoy** - Davidson County Local Food Network
- **Grace Kanoy** - Davidson County Local Food Network
- **Marianne LeGreco** - Guilford County Food Council

Gardening in Community and in Faith

The Garden of Concord, an organic community garden, was planted on the land of Concord United Methodist Church in Eli Whitney, Southern Alamance County, NC in May 2009. As an extension ministry of the church, the garden seeks to nurture and empower all in need through the sharing of food, fellowship, and garden stewardship. The connection of the church and community is celebrated as they work, learn, and care for God's creation together while experiencing Christian love, joy, and unity. Be inspired by the passion of members from the Garden of Concord as you listen to their personal reflections including the history of the garden, its challenges and future "sowings," "finding God in the garden," and a tour of the garden and its "plantings." It WILL be good!



- **Donna Poe** - Garden of Concord
- **Cindy Shetter** - Garden of Concord



SESSION 3

3:00-4:15

In-Depth Discussion With Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson

A more in-depth conversation and interaction with Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson, following her keynote address: "Well, the answer is...we all need to grow our own food: Race, Class and the Fine Line Between Food Instruction and Food Policing." Dr. Williams-Forson will explore in more depth her work and research into the role that culture, race, class, and historical experience play in food accessibility and the local food movement.



- **Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson** - Univ. of Maryland, College Park

Local Food Access and SNAP/EBT at Farmers' Markets

Learn about local food access initiatives at farmers markets in North Carolina, including SNAP/EBT acceptance and Double Bucks programs and how you can support your local farmers market's efforts. Hear from the Carrboro Farmers' Market and the Durham Farmers' Market about their market programming and their community partnerships that range from the public health sector to refugee assistance organizations.



- **Salem Neff** - Beyond Hunger Relief Program, RAFI-USA
- **Jenny Elander** - Durham Farmers' Market
- **Margaret Krome-Lukens** - Carrboro Farmers' Market
- **Kelly Warnock** - Durham County Department of Public Health

Feed the People With Love, then Food

So often we forget that all people are hungry for love, acceptance, and food. Hear how an Episcopal Minister and a local celebrity chef/restaurateur approach access to food for all people as a human right and demonstrate commitment to food produced with fairness to those who produce and prepare it. Karen and Vimala are



both practicing Christians whose faith has propelled them to open their hearts, apply their hands, and use their heads strategically to minister and serve others through food. Come be inspired by these two foodies whose love for Christ inspires them to Feed the People With Love, then Food.

- **Karen Ladd** - St. Barts Episcopal Church
- **Vimala Rajendran** - Curryblossom Café

Fermentation and Sacred Transformation

In this workshop, we'll learn how to preserve and sanctify the garden's bounty through the miracle of fermentation. As you cut and massage the cabbage and other vegetables, there will be a brief introduction to the fermentation process, the benefits of fermentation and a step-by-step guide to making sauerkraut. The conversation will then open into a discussion of religious perspectives on fermentation, and we'll try and think through the theological implications of probiotic versus antibiotic approaches to microbes. We'll finish with a prayer for sacred transformation and a sampling of a couple different ferments.



- **Jacob Levin** - Pickards Mountain Eco-institute
- **Rachael Graber** - Pickards Mountain Eco-institute

Embodying Shalom: Framing Food Discussions in Faith Communities

This workshop explores how faith community leaders can introduce and frame conversations around food ministries in language and images that resonate with their faith communities' culture, vision, and mission. Participants will share resources and ideas for teaching, preaching, and ministry initiatives.



- **Mark Jensen** - Wake Forest School of Divinity

Keynote Speakers

REV. PRINCE RANEY RIVERS

The Reverend Prince Raney Rivers serves as the Senior Pastor of United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Winston Salem, NC. He received a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School, completed the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute and was a fellow of the Pastor-Theologian Program at Princeton Theological Seminary. Rev. Rivers will provide the morning address: "Bread for the Journey."



CHAS EDENS

Chas Edens is Executive Director of Anathoth Community Garden & Farm, in Cedar Grove, NC, a rural, non-profit ministry. Chas holds a BS in Horticulture from NC State University and a Master of Arts in Christian Studies from Duke Divinity School. He will provide the closing address "Good Work as Worship: Transforming Our Churches and Neighborhoods Through a Liturgy of Farming."



Beyond Hunger Relief

EXPANDING COME TO THE TABLE

Beyond Hunger Relief is RAFI's newest program that grew out of the Come to the Table project. Come to the Table was created in 2006 as a joint project between RAFI and the NC Council of Churches, with funding and support from the Duke Endowment. The project was founded on the premise that "it is both possible and morally necessary to find ways for farmers and others to make a fair living while providing accessible, healthy food to their communities."

In 2013 we expanded the scope of the project and pursued funding to grow our team to support Beyond Hunger Relief's mission to

identify, launch and educate about systemic solutions to food insecurity that strengthen just and sustainable agriculture.

With generous support from new and existing funders, we increased our staff capacity and launched two new projects:

- **Beyond Hunger Relief Participatory Research** identifying the barriers and opportunities for farmers selling into low wealth communities.
- **Connect2Direct** in partnership with the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project, piloting and promoting SNAP/EBT access at farmers markets and other direct sale venues.

Learn more at www.rafiusa.org/bhr.

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI) is a private non-profit organization that traces its heritage to the National Sharecroppers' Fund, which was founded in the 1930s by a group of bi-racial tenant farmers organizing for fair treatment, led by Dr. Frank Porter Graham, Eleanor Roosevelt, and other distinguished individuals. RAFI works nationally and internationally, specifically focusing on North Carolina and the southeastern United States. Our mission is to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms. RAFI believes that farmers and consumers must be informed, involved with each other and active in protecting and directing the use of natural and human agricultural resources.



RAFI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Pittsboro, North Carolina and incorporated in 1990.

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Funders

The Duke Endowment: Come to the Table & Beyond Hunger Relief Research

The Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust: Farm Fresh & Healthy - Local Produce on Every Table

USDA's Farmers Market Promotion Program: North Carolina Farmers Market Initiative

Wholesome Wave: Double Value Coupon Program for Farmers Markets

Partners

The North Carolina Council of Churches

The Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project

The Resourceful Communities Program of the Conservation Fund

UNC's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Cooperative Extension's "More In My Basket" Program

**SUPPORT
CTTT**



Support Come To The Table

Your donation helps us to provide scholarships to conference participants and provide programmatic content.



TO DONATE:

- Online go to www.rafiusa.org/donate and type Come to the Table in the Notes or Comments section
- Make checks payable to RAFI-USA with Come to the Table in the memo line, mail to RAFI-USA, PO Box 640, Pittsboro, NC 27312

For more information about donations and supporting Come to the Table and RAFI-USA contact Edna Rodriguez, Development Director, at edna@rafiusa.org or (919) 542-1396, x202.

For media inquiries contact Hayes Simpson, Communications VISTA, at hayes@rafiusa.org or (919) 542-1396, x208.

RAFI-USA is a tax exempt nonprofit organization with a 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

www.rafiusa.org/cttt



VISIT

Visit the Market Today!

Elon Community Church Farmers Market invites the community to gather around local fresh food while supporting area farmers, bakers, crafters and the local economy. The market is open in the church parking lot Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 6:30pm.

Today, the vendors have agreed to open early for us! At 2:30pm you are invited to take a tour of the market and purchase fruits, veggies or other snacks using the Market Bucks in your conference folder. A huge thanks to the farmers and to Sandra Sarlinga, market manager, for making this possible.



Come to the Table Fellowship

Later this year, Come to the Table will launch its **Fellows Program**, designed to build more effective farm based food access initiatives across North Carolina. This program is designed for churches or other faith based organizations to participate as a group. Fellows will participate in two day-long retreats and their home congregations will receive technical support for their projects. To learn more and find out how to apply, contact Francesca Hyatt at fhyatt@rafiusa.org.



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OUR MISSION

RAFI-USA cultivates markets, policies and communities that support thriving, socially-just, and environmentally-sound family farms.