

COME TO THE TABLE STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Thursday,
March 16, 2017

Durham
Convention Center,
Durham, NC

Building Bridges: Cultivating Food & Faith Connections



A partnership of the Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA
and the NC Council of Churches with support from the Duke Endowment



WELCOME



March 16, 2017

Ten years ago, Come to the Table convened its first conference for people of faith, hunger relief advocates, and farmers. As we meet for the sixth Come to the Table convening, our first statewide conference, it seems like an appropriate time to remind ourselves why we gather in this setting. Many things have changed in the past decade as we have worked and learned together; when we began, community gardens were a relatively new idea for many in the field, and church-based food ministries that were not soup kitchens or pantries were rare.



We came together in 2007 in recognition that our work was sometimes siloed; seeing that the food access community, the farm community and the faith community were all seeking solutions, but often at cross purposes. We needed conversations across those silos and deeper connections to make all of our work more effective.

It's no secret that today we are gathering in an increasingly fragmented world, one in which communication and face-to-face connections are ever more needed. How fitting that a table is, in essence, a bridge on the scale of the personal and community; a platform for unlikely partnerships that Come to the Table seeks to facilitate. In 2017, hunger, farm sustainability, and food justice remain critical issues, and the work we do and the relationships we build at this gathering are more important than ever.

We hope you come here not only to expand your tables, but also look at who is setting the table. Who is present? Who is not present? Why? These questions are not easy to answer, nor are they always comfortable to address. They require humility, thoughtfulness, reflection, and a willingness to redefine who is "us," and who is "them." We intend for this gathering to be a space for these values, and an invitation for us all to set our tables with the intention of bridging divides.

From all of us at RAFI: welcome! We're so glad you're here.



Scott Marlow
Executive Director,
RAFI

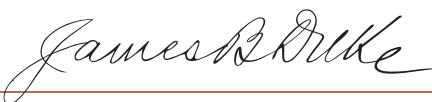
Over a decade ago, leaders from the Rural Church program area of The Duke Endowment, the North Carolina Council of Churches, and the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) came together around a dream. That dream was to create a space in which farmers, faith communities, and food-related nonprofits could encounter and hear one another, and could work together to develop solutions to the persistent and complex issues affecting producers and low-income consumers. In 2007, the first Come to the Table Conference was held. The Duke Endowment is pleased to support and participate in these vital gatherings. We have seen inspiring and innovative collaborations and projects arise from them. We continue to believe that, when different people come together with open minds and creative energy to identify common needs and goals, amazing results emerge. We trust that those who join us in this Come to the Table series have arrived with just these gifts and a shared purpose, and we look forward to seeing what arises from the fertile soil we are tilling today!



Kristen Richardson-Frick
Program Officer,
Rural Church,
The Duke Endowment



Robb Webb
Director,
Rural Church,
The Duke
Endowment


THE DUKE ENDOWMENT



ABOUT

What is Come to the Table?

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.”

We envision a future in which people working in partnership build strong, self-reliant communities where everyone can eat healthy, just, and sustainable food.

We have hosted five conference series, convening three regional events in 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, and 2015. At each event we brought together faith leaders and laypeople, hunger relief advocates, farmers, farmworkers, school nutrition directors and more in order to find mutually beneficial solutions for food insecurity and local farms. In between conferences, RAFI staff maintains communication with select congregations and projects, providing resources and support for their food ministries. In 2015, RAFI launched the Come to the Table Fellows Program, a learning community of teams engaged in the food and faith movement across North Carolina.

Come to the Table is generously supported by the Duke Endowment.

The mission of Come to the Table is to relieve hunger and strengthen just and sustainable agriculture in rural North Carolina. We do this by engaging and mobilizing people of faith, farmers, and communities.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER JASON BROWN

A native of Henderson, NC, Jason Brown is a community advocate, a former professional athlete, and a man of faith.

Brown studied interpersonal communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill while on an athletic scholarship. His greatest accomplishment at Carolina was meeting the love of his life and wife, Dr. Tay Brown. After he graduated in 2005, he was drafted by the Baltimore Ravens.

As a free agent in 2009, Jason signed a five-year contract with the St. Louis Rams, served three, and was released in March 2012. With several lucrative offers on the table from the Baltimore Ravens, Carolina Panthers, and the San Francisco 49ers, Jason decided instead to take a leap of faith and walk away from the NFL.

After his departure from the NFL, Jason moved back to North Carolina and purchased a 1,000-acre farm in Louisburg. 2014 turned out to be a breakthrough year for First Fruits Farm. The farm hosted the first annual youth fishing derby, hosted graduate students from NC State University, and collaborated with many faith and service organizations. The Brown's farm has yielded more 200,000 lbs of produce which were given to food pantries and churches throughout the Triangle area. Thousands of volunteers have lent helping hands in gleaning and harvest events.

In his work through Wisdom for Life Ministries and First Fruit Farms, Jason and his wife Tay are demonstrating how to live a life of purpose. Jason serves as a great example of community development through agriculture.



ABOUT



Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI)

RAFI's mission is to cultivate markets, policies, and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms. RAFI's work is guided by the belief that in order to ensure a safe, adequate supply of healthy food we must protect family farms and encourage environmentally sound farming.

RAFI combines on-the-ground services with national and international policy advocacy in order to ensure that farmers have access to the tools they need to make the right choices for their farm and families, and to ensure that the best choice for farmers will also be the best choice for the environment and their communities. RAFI works nationally and internationally, focusing on North Carolina and the southeastern United States. RAFI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Pittsboro, North Carolina and incorporated in 1990.

The Beyond Hunger Relief Program is RAFI's newest program that grew out of the Come to the Table project. Beyond Hunger Relief's mission is to identify, launch and educate about systemic solutions to food insecurity that strengthen just and sustainable agriculture.

We do this by engaging and mobilizing people of faith, farmers and communities through our Come to the Table Project, through research on the barriers and opportunities for farmers selling into low wealth communities, and through piloting and promoting SNAP/EBT access and our "Fresh Bucks" nutrition incentives program at farmers markets and other direct-sale venues. [Learn more at rafiusa.org](http://rafiusa.org)



Beyond Hunger Relief Program Staff

- Edna Rodriguez, Operations Director
- Margaret Krome-Lukens, Project Manager, Beyond Hunger Relief
- Tahz Walker, Project Manager, Come to the Table Project
- Jean Willoughby, Communications Manager
- Carson Whitmore, Come to the Table Event Planning Coordinator
- Jon Rigby, Johnson Service Corps

North Carolina Council of Churches

The NC Council of Churches is a statewide ecumenical organization promoting Christian unity and working towards a more just society. The Council 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.

The Council's members include 25 judicatories of 17 denominations and eight individual congregations. Across the state, the Council's members have over 6,200 congregations with about 1.5 million congregants. While the Council is itself overtly Christian, many of the committees and task groups are interfaith, including members from non-Christian faith communities. Several committees also include members of Christian denominations which are not part of the Council of Churches. Through this work, we live our motto: Strength in Unity, Peace through Justice.

[Learn more at nccchurches.org](http://nccchurches.org). The contact person for the Rural Life Committee and Come to the Table at the Council is Jennie Belle (jennie@nccchurches.org).



North Carolina
Council of Churches



SCHEDULE

COME TO THE TABLE 2017 CONFERENCE

Bridging Divides: Cultivating Food & Faith Connections

MARCH 16TH, 2017 | DURHAM, NC

See insert for session locations. Note: Schedule subject to change

8:00	Registration Opens
8:45 - 9:15	Welcome and Orientation, Interfaith Prayer
9:15 - 9:45	Keynote by Jason Brown, NC farmer and former NFL player 
9:45 - 10:00	Break, Networking & Exhibitors
10:00 - 11:30	Workshop Session One (See pages 8-9 for workshop descriptions.)
11:45 - 12:15	Break, Exhibitors & Lunch Pick-Up
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch over Community Conversations (See insert for room choices.)
1:15 - 2:45	Workshop Session Two (See pages 9-10 for workshop descriptions.)
2:45 - 3:00	Break, Networking & Exhibitors
3:00 - 4:30	Workshop Session Three (See pages 10-12 for workshop descriptions.)
4:30 - 5:00	Conference Wrap-Up and Thanks with Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble

SCHEDULE



Find details on each workshop on pages 8-12.

	Building Strong Foundations 1	Building Strong Foundations 2	Theology and Food	Farmer Voices & Cooperative Development
Session 1: 10 - 11:30	Meaningful Engagement Across Your Community <i>Susan Sachs & Rev. Brandon Rencher</i>	Before You Get Started: Community Asset Mapping <i>Diana McCall</i>	Theology and Food: The Vocation of Communion <i>John Parker & Justine Post</i>	Growing Innovation: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from RAFL Grantee Farmers <i>Jeremiah Jones, Shawn Hatley, & Chad Jacobs</i>
Session 2: 1:15 - 2:45	Native Ways: Community-Based Philanthropy and Giving <i>Christina Theodorou & Randi Byrd</i>	Building Livelihoods: Generative Faith and Food Projects <i>Donna Poe, Andrew Hammond, Julia Sendor, & Cyril Murphy</i>	Bread from the Earth: Creating Sacred and Community Spaces with Food <i>Noah Rubin-Blose</i>	From Charity to Sustainability: A Cooperative Solution <i>Mo Kessler, Eleanor Graves & Justin Robinson</i>
Session 3: 3:00 - 4:30	Working Towards Effective Partnerships <i>Susan Sachs</i>	Hungry Kids: How To Help and Why It Matters <i>Ashton Tippins</i>	Our Stories as Sacred Ground: Land, Food, and Our God <i>Fatima Salleh</i>	Youth Voices in the Food System <i>Bevelyn Ukah & youth from CEFS' Food Youth Initiative</i>



SCHEDULE

Find details on each workshop on pages 8-12.

Getting Food to the Table	Deepening Our Work	Express Yourself	Disaster Relief	Policy
Power on Your Plate: Deconstructing the Agricultural Food System and Empowering Workers <i>Farmworkers, Susan Alan, Anna Jensen, & Leonardo Galvan</i>	Gathering Roots: Looking at Inequities in the Food System <i>Camryn Smith & Cristina Rivera-Chapman</i>	The Body and Worship: Moving to Social Change <i>Joy Williams</i>	Recovery and Resilience: Support, Healing and Faith in the Wake of Disaster <i>Scott Marlow & Susannah Tuttle</i>	Fairness in Contract Poultry Production: Partial Screening of Under Contract documentary & Farmer Panel <i>Genell Pridgen, Craig Watts, & Sally Lee</i>
Lives on the Line: The Human Cost of Chicken <i>Bacilio Castro</i>	Gathering Roots: Looking at Inequities in the Food System <i>Camryn Smith & Cristina Rivera-Chapman</i>	Sharing Our Experiences Through Visual Storytelling <i>Laxmi Haynes</i>	Disaster Relief Resources for Farmers and Communities <i>Barry Ryan & Scott Marlow</i>	Food Policy Councils: A Tool for Organizing from Neighbors to Decision-Makers <i>Abbey Piner, Jared Cates, Gini Knight, & Megan Bolejack</i>
Fight for 15: Fast Food and Poverty Wages <i>Speaker TBA</i>	Faith Values and Food Connections <i>Kylie Foley</i>	Workplace/Community/Cultural Organizing in Harmony: Building Solidarity in Action Through Music <i>Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble</i>	Boots on the Ground: Disaster Relief Experiences from the Field <i>Cliff Harvell, Steve Davis, Murat Kose, & Carter Crain</i>	Up From Discrimination to a Future in Building the New Local Food Economy <i>Savonala Horne & Annette Hiatt</i>

SESSIONS



SESSION 1: 10 - 11:30

Please see insert for workshop locations.

Meaningful Engagement Across Your Community

Reverend Brandon Rencher, Blackburn's Chapel United Methodist Church & Blackburn Community Outreach, Inc.
Susan Sachs, Starfire Consulting

Are you connected to the community you serve in a significant way? In this interactive workshop you'll learn why community engagement is important as well as strategies to assess and engage with your community in meaningful ways that will help your organization have a greater impact.

Before You Get Started: Community Asset Mapping

Diana McCall, John Wilson Community Garden

Using Technology of Participation Methods to create small-group, focused discussions, each participant will have an opportunity to learn how to develop an Asset Based Community Development Map targeted around a particular goal or vision they have for their community.

Theology and Food: The Vocation of Communion

John Parker, Wake Forest University Divinity School
Justine Post, Resourceful Communities

This workshop will provide a theological framing, scriptural grounding, and communal understanding of our relationship with food and food ministries. In addition, a variety of food ministries will be illustrated as well as practical connections to community development theory and practice. Participants will share their ideas and identify ways to design or strengthen their food-related vocations, ministries, and projects.

Growing Innovation: Best Practices and Lessons Learned from RAFI Grantee Farmers

Jeremiah Jones, NC Natural Hog Growers Association
Shawn Hatley, Sun-Raised Farms
Chad Jacobs, American Prawn Cooperative

Often in the food system we think of farmers as being in constant

competition, but historically and currently farmers have coordinated to build vibrant markets and successful cooperative systems. Learn about the collaborative process from farmers working together in various realms of production agriculture as they share key skills and lessons learned.

Power on Your Plate: Deconstructing the Agricultural Food System and Empowering Workers

Farmworkers, NC Farmworkers Project
Anna Jensen, NC Farmworkers Project
Leonardo Galvan, NC Farmworkers Project
Susan Alan, National Farmworker Ministry

The living and working conditions of most farmworkers—the people who labor on America's farms and ranches to produce food—are inadequate. Wages are low; agriculture is among the most dangerous jobs in the country; the health status of farmworkers and their family members is disproportionately poor; decent housing is in short supply; many labor and occupational safety laws exclude farmworkers; most public benefits programs exclude many farmworker families due to immigration status; and many social services for which they are eligible do not reach farmworkers. In this workshop, you will learn more about how Americans get their food and how workers fit into that system, the challenges many workers face, and you will hear directly from workers who will speak to their experiences in the fields of NC.

Gathering Roots: Looking at Inequities in the Food System

Camryn Smith, Communities in Partnership
Cristina Rivera-Chapman, Tierra Negra Farm

How do we build sustainable relationships across divides of race, class, and privilege in urban and rural communities to sustain our work? How do we bring more equality and access to resources for everyone in the food system? (Workshop repeats in Session 2.)

The Body and Worship: Moving to Social Change

Joy Williams

This interactive workshop starts with a short review of scripture of ways the body incorporated within worship provokes social change. Participants will see a demonstration of movement exercises



SESSIONS

for worship and, if desired, explore movement that encourages social reflection. This workshop will also include performance.

Recovery and Resilience: Support, Healing, and Faith in the Wake of Disaster

Scott Marlow, RAFI

Susannah Tuttle, NC Interfaith Power & Light

What are the long-term mental health impacts of disaster on rural people and communities? Where can people find support when crisis disaster relief resources have run out but recovery is not complete? This workshop will examine the role of clergy, church, and faith in supporting resilience and healing in the wake of disaster.

Fairness in Contract Poultry Production: Partial Screening of Under Contract documentary and Farmer Panel

Genell Pridgen, independent livestock & poultry farmer and former contract farmer

Craig Watts, former contract poultry farmer

Sally Lee, RAFI

Join former contract poultry farmers Genell Pridgen and Craig Watts for a screening of RAFI's new documentary film. Contract farmers tell their stories, and industry experts reveal how the corporate production model pits farmer against farmer. Under Contract: Farmers and the Fine Print takes audiences across the American South and to Southern India to understand what's happening to farmers living under contract and what we can do to change our food system for the better. Film is followed by a panel discussion with featured farmers.

SESSION 2: 1:15 - 2:45

Please see insert for workshop locations.

Native Ways: Community-Based Philanthropy and Giving

Christina Theodorou, American Indian Center at UNC Chapel Hill

Randi Byrd, American Indian Center at UNC Chapel Hill

The American Indian Center at UNC Chapel Hill will share insight into strategies used to engage with Native nations and tribal

communities on culturally-based philanthropy and giving. This is based on the work of the NC Native Asset Coalition and the Healthy Native North Carolinians Network. The UNC American Indian Center is a public service center with the mission of bridging the strengths of Carolina with the richness of Native cultures. Our work is driven by indigenous values of Respect, Responsibility, Reciprocity, and Balance and achieved through four areas of engagement—Native Community Engagement, Campus Community Engagement, Student Engagement, and Engaged Scholarship.

Building Livelihoods: Generative Faith and Food Projects

Donna Poe, Garden of Concord

Andrew Hammond, Garden of Concord

Julia Sendor, Anathoth Community Garden & Farm

Cyril Murphy, Chestnut Ridge Camp & Retreat Center

Representatives from different faith-based food and farming projects will share their knowledge on maintaining and building programs that are both financially sustainable and support their communities. Attendees will hear best practices and lessons learned, within frameworks that can be used to strengthen your own community projects.

Bread from the Earth: Creating Sacred and Community Spaces with Food

Noah Rubin-Blose, Chef, Community Organizer, and Educator

Starting from Jewish frameworks and drawing from the faith traditions of workshop participants, we will explore how we decolonize our relationships to food, and how food can help create sacred space to bring people together. What foods are "ours"? What do the traditions we come from teach us about relationship to land and each other, about growing food & sharing food in just ways? This interactive workshop will explore these questions and more to envision creating sacred and community spaces with food.

From Charity to Sustainability: A Cooperative Solution

Mo Kessler, Renaissance Community Coop

Eleanor Graves, Renaissance Community Coop

Justin Robinson, Earthseed Land Cooperative

This interactive workshop will explore the cooperative model and how communities can build long-term solutions for the problems we

SESSIONS



face. It will feature two cooperative projects. The community of Northeastern Greensboro existed in an 18-year old food desert until the community opened the doors of their cooperatively-owned, full-service grocery store. The Renaissance Community Cooperative is a testament to the power of organizing and the need to create sustainable solutions for the problems that face marginalized communities. The members of the Earthseed formed a land cooperative to increase their self-determination—and that of their communities and generations to come—by providing access to land and structures that enable them to build wealth, foster environmental sustainability, and actualize community wellness.

Lives on the Line: The Human Cost of Chicken

Bacilio Castro, Western NC Workers Center

This eye-opening presentation by poultry worker members and organizers of Western North Carolina Workers' Center, an organization that has organized poultry workers since 2002, will provide an overview of the issues faced by poultry workers in NC and across the country. Current and former poultry workers will share their experiences working in egregious conditions. Workers will also talk about the worker-led campaign to demand access to bathroom breaks in one poultry plant in WNC and give audience members the opportunity to take action in solidarity with poultry workers in NC.

Gathering Roots: Looking at Inequities in the Food System

Camryn Smith, Communities in Partnership

Cristina Rivera-Chapman, Tierra Negra Farm

How do we build sustainable relationships across divides of race, class, and privilege in urban and rural communities to sustain our work? How do we bring more equality and access to resources for everyone in the food system? (Workshop also presented in Session 1.)

Sharing our Experiences Through Visual Storytelling

Laxmi Haynes, Student Action with Farmworkers

This interactive workshop will use a portable mural and physical activities to spark discussion about issues affecting North Carolina's migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Disaster Relief Resources for Farmers and Communities

Barry Ryan, NC Rural Economic Development Center

Scott Marlow, RAFI

Finding support for your farm or community following a disaster can be an overwhelming and confusing task, and continues long after the immediate relief has ended. This workshop will walk participants through options available to help with disaster relief and the disaster recovery process. The session will cover resources specifically for farmers, more general resources for community members and where community members can turn with questions for themselves and others.

Food Policy Councils: A Tool for Organizing from Neighbors to Decision-Makers

Abbey Piner, Center for Environmental Farming Systems

Gini Knight, Center for Environmental Farming Systems

Megan Bolejack, Care Share Health Alliance

Jared Cates, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association

A network of local food policy councils is growing across North Carolina and the country. Why? In this session, the Community Food Strategies team and members of local food policy councils will engage workshop participants in a dialogue about food councils. We will discuss ways local food councils can make an impact on community food systems, review what food councils are doing around NC, and consider what's working and what's not working as this network of councils develops.

SESSION 3: 3 - 4:30

Please see insert for workshop locations.

Working Towards Effective Partnerships

Susan Sachs, Starfire Consulting

Partnerships are crucial to successful projects and sustainable organizations - but what makes a good partnership? What does an equitable partnership look like, and what happens when partnerships start to feel challenging? In this session, we will discuss



SESSIONS

what “partnership” truly means, different levels of partnerships, what makes them work - and what can knock them off balance, and tools to make partnerships truly equitable.

Hungry Kids: How to Help and Why it Matters

Ashton Tippins, TABLE

TABLE will share some best practices and lessons learned from their experience, including how to involve people as participants rather than recipients, and some nuts and bolts of incorporating fresh produce into a backpack program. We will discuss the impact of hunger on child development and educational success, examine the roots and causes of child hunger, and ask participants to share lessons they’ve learned in their own work.

Our Stories as Sacred Ground: Land, Food, and Our God

Fatima Salleh, Duke Divinity School

This workshop will explore the spiritual practice of both speaking into our stories and hearing the stories of our neighbors. We will venture into the ideas of how our experiences with land, food, and the divine have shaped our physical and spiritual selves.

Youth Voices in the Food System

*Bevelyn Ukah, Center for Environmental Farming Systems
Youth from the CEFS Food Youth Initiative*

Youth all over NC actively engage in local food systems work, in their schools, faith communities, local organizations, and across their communities. Four youth groups-- Conetoe Family Life Center, Growing Change, Poder Juvenil Campesino and Transplanting Traditions--and their youth organizers together make up the Food Youth Initiative (a program of the Center for Environmental Farming Systems), which is a network of youth already working in food justice across NC. This network of youth focuses on many issues from immigration, (migrant) farm labor rights, community ownership, and awareness raising around the school to prison pipeline. They work creatively, focusing on storytelling as advocacy, with food and justice as their platform. Attendees are welcome to engage these youth on their experiences, challenges and unique opportunities in their advocacy, policy and justice work.

Fight for 15: Fast Food and Poverty Wages

Speaker from Fight for 15 TBA

Fast food is a \$200 billion industry, yet many service workers across the country earn minimum wage or just above it and are forced to rely on public assistance programs to provide for their families and get healthcare for their children. Each year, their labor brings billions of dollars into stores and restaurants nationwide, but almost all of these profits go to make executives and investors even richer, while workers struggle to provide their families with basic necessities like food, rent, healthcare and transportation. Learn more about the Fight for 15 movement in North Carolina and learn how you can support service workers who demand a fair wage of \$15 an hour and the right to form a union without retaliation so that they can support their families, strengthen our economy, and improve our communities.

Faith Values and Food Connections

Kylie Foley, Institute for Emerging Issues

Identifying your faith community’s core values will help focus your emerging food ministries. Understanding the motives behind local food systems allows faith communities to find the best match for partnerships based off shared values.

Workplace/Community/Cultural Organizing In Harmony: Building Solidarity In Action Through Music

Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble

The Fruit of Labor Singing Ensemble was born out of the struggle of organizing African American workers in the “Black Belt” region of North Carolina and the South. More than twenty-two workers have participated in this dynamic cultural workers organization at various times. Recruited from workplace and community struggles, they have captured in music the community and workplace struggles of oppressed peoples and the working class. Join these talented organizers and cultural worker musicians, and get ready to raise your voice in an energetic, participatory workshop on how to lift up community and workplace struggles through music!

Continued on next page.

Cliff Harvell, NC Conference of the United Methodist Church Disaster Response Team

Organizations working on disaster relief efforts across NC will share their experiences and lessons learned in a panel discussion. What are current needs in the state after flooding and wildfires? What can you do now to help relief efforts succeed during the next disaster? What are the best ways for faith communities to engage? Attendees will also be invited to share, and to ask questions.

Savonala Horne, Land Loss Prevention Project
Annette Hiatt, Land Loss Prevention Project

African-American, American-Indian, Women and Latino farmers and ranchers have survived the brunt of USDA discrimination and some of these legacy farmers are now poised to participate in emerging opportunities for producers in their local food economy. This workshop will provide an overview of the historic USDA discrimination class action lawsuits and land loss within the Black Belt of North Carolina. Federal Farm Bill measures to address equity and access to resources will be reviewed. The rising movement of small, new and beginning producers is ushering in a new era of food democracy across the state. New tools are needed to ensure the robustness and resiliency of the local food movement. There are many tools that the Land Loss Prevention Project has utilized that can serve the needs of those who are producing our food and imagining an alternative food system.

[illegible]



RAFI Services

RAFI provides technical assistance and consulting in the following areas:

FOR FOOD MINISTRIES AND FAITH-BASED HUNGER INITIATIVES

Contact Tahz Walker, tahz@rafiusa.org, (919) 542-1396 ext. 205

- Networking assistance, data gathering, and problem-solving
- Creating project plans, evaluation, outreach, and fundraising plans
- Agricultural enterprise consultation
- Food and hunger presentations

FOR FARMERS MARKETS

Contact Margaret Krome-Lukens, margaret@rafiusa.org, (919) 542-1396 ext. 206

- Capacity-building and infrastructure development
- Assistance with SNAP/EBT, nutrition incentives, and food access programs

FOR FARMERS

Contact Ben Paynter, ben@rafiusa.org, (919) 542-1396 ext. 3

- Financial counseling and legal referrals for farmers in financial crisis
- Information on agricultural contracts
- Consulting on agricultural enterprise development
- Information on organic certification

COME TO THE TABLE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

An experiential and materials-based training program and learning community for people of faith engaged in food access initiatives who want to create more innovation and equity in North Carolina's faith and food movement.



SMALL GRANTS FOR FARMS AND FARM COOPERATIVES

Contact Ben Paynter, ben@rafiusa.org, (919) 542-1396 ext. 3

The Agricultural Reinvestment Fund grant program assists farmers and rural communities in developing new sources of agricultural income through the provision of cost-share grants.

ONLINE RESOURCES AND PUBLIC SPEAKING ON TOPICS

RELATED TO:

- Contract Agriculture
- The Farm Bill
- Seeds & Biodiversity
- Risk Management
- Organic Agriculture
- Landowner Rights and Fracking
- Social Justice
- Food Access

ACTION ALERTS AND ADVOCACY

Stay informed by visiting the RAFI website and signing up for the mailing list at rafiusa.org/subscribe/

THANK YOU



James B. Duke

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

The Duke Endowment has generously provided sustaining support to the Come to the Table Project since 2007. We are deeply grateful for a relationship with funders who share a profound commitment to our mission, and whom we consider partners in the work.

About the Duke Endowment

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. In addition to grantmaking work in four program areas (child care, health care, higher education, and rural churches), the Endowment shares its knowledge by publishing resources for grantees and other service organizations, including information about what we're learning from our work in various publications, reports and evaluations. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

The Duke Endowment has supported Come to the Table since its inception and continues as the sustaining funder of the Come to the Table and Beyond Hunger Relief programs. Learn more at DukeEndowment.org.

*We also thank First Citizens Bank,
a 2017 Conference sponsor, for their support!*



We can't do this on our own! We are grateful for the contributions and support of our project partners, conference speakers, volunteers, and everyone who has contributed time and energy to Come to the Table.

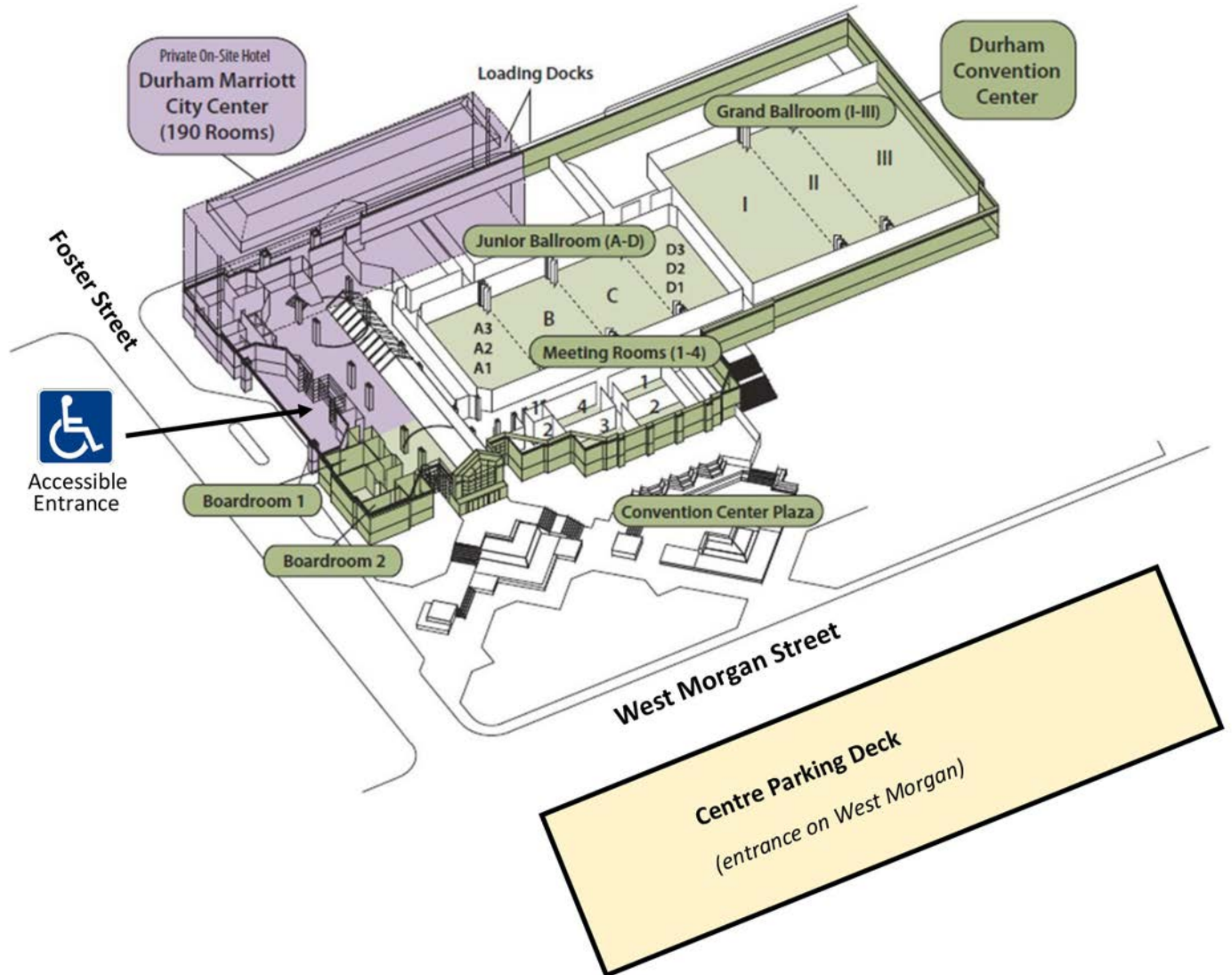
Thank you!



MAP

Durham Convention Center Floorplan & Map

301 West Morgan Street, Durham NC, 27701



Parking Information

Parking vouchers will be provided to conference attendees. Vouchers will be accepted at the **Centre Parking Deck** (300 Morgan Street) directly across from the Convention Center, and the **Chapel Hill Street Garage Deck** (326 East Chapel Hill Street) a few blocks away. Spaces are not reserved for conference attendees and are first-come, first-served.



**RURAL ADVANCEMENT
FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL-USA**

Physical Address

274 Pittsboro Elem School
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Mailing Address

PO Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: (919) 542-1396

Fax: (919) 542-0069

rafiusa.org/cttt

facebook.com/rafiusa

twitter.com/rafiusa



COME TO THE TABLE