RISE National Conference
Pre Conference Sessions: March 11–12, 2026 | Atlanta, Georgia
Full Conference: March 12-14, 2026 | Atlanta, Georgia
The Power of Our Voices and the Telling of Our Stories...*With Prophetic Whispers*

Pre-Conference Training Sessions

Each pre-conference session is $100. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. Please note participants may register for only one track. All session details and instructions will be provided prior to the conference.

Leading in the Public Square
Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood
Certificate Provided

This session equips ministry leaders with the tools and language to witness boldly in the public square. Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Public Theology at United Lutheran Seminary, brings years of scholarship and public engagement advancing racial justice in areas such as medical apartheid, food equity, and community organizing. She previously helped launch and served as Associate Director of the Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative at Vanderbilt University. Participants will explore the long history of Black women's leadership in the public square, from early education to civic activism. Pre-conference reading will be provided, and participants who complete the session will receive a certificate in public-square leadership.

Participants are asked to review Rosetta Ross' *Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion, and Civil Rights* as pre-reading for the workshop. Participants should select one individual from the text to study and be prepared to discuss that person's leadership style, target audience, praxis, and other key insights. The book is available electronically through most seminary libraries, making it easily accessible through participants' institutions.

Trauma-Informed Ministry
Facilitator: Rev. Jocelyn J. Jones
Part I of Certification

This immersive trauma healing experience introduces participants to core principles that foster healing and resilience in congregations and community settings. Built on the globally recognized Trauma Healing Institute model, the session integrates biblical teaching with proven mental health practices. Participants will engage in a reflective and interactive environment designed to support personal healing through Scripture, story, and community.

Rev. Jocelyn J. Jones is a Master Facilitator with the Trauma Healing Institute and the Founder of Faith on the Journey, a national ministry dedicated to equipping churches in Christian trauma informed care. She is a respected practitioner who has guided leaders and congregations across the country in developing faithful, compassionate responses to trauma.

Post Certification Classes: Participants pursuing full certification will complete three additional online sessions, each two and a half hours. Those who complete the post training will receive a facilitator manual and earn Apprentice Certification through the Trauma Healing Institute, preparing them to lead healing groups in their ministries and communities. **Cost for Post Certification:** $225