

First Book From FTE and Chalice Press Partnership on Ferguson, Due Out By One-Year Anniversary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (St. Louis, January 23, 2015) - The faith-rooted justice work in Ferguson, Missouri, following the tragic shooting death of Michael Brown will be the focus of the first book published in a partnership between Chalice Press and the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE). The book is scheduled to be available in July 2015, in time for the one-year anniversary of the event that sparked the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Associate Dean for Contextual Education and Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, is writing the first book. An active and visible presence in Ferguson and the St. Louis area since the shooting, Gunning Francis is collecting interviews with faith leaders who have been instrumental in the response in the weeks and months following.

“The Michael Brown shooting and the subsequent outrage focused the world’s attention on the systematic injustices in American society and the racism lurking just beneath the surface,” says Chalice Press president and publisher Brad Lyons. “As a company based in St. Louis for more than a century, the people of Ferguson are literally our neighbors. When this tragedy happened, we were right in the midst of it. We knew we wanted to find a way to respond appropriately and to make a positive contribution, and we’re honored to be working with Dr. Leah Gunning Francis and our partners at FTE to do just that.”

Dr. Gunning Francis says, “It is an honor to listen to these sacred stories of courage and hope, and glean from them the seeds of possibilities that, if nurtured, could serve us well into the future. These are the stories that were rarely imaged on television, yet they are integral to the fight for justice in Ferguson and resonate with the struggle for human dignity around the country. They remind us why #blacklivesmatter to God, and why they should matter to us all.”

“In an age where people question the church’s witness in the world, Dr. Leah Gunning Francis brings to light how religious leaders are making an impact today in our communities in tangible ways,” says FTE president Stephen Lewis. “As the first book of FTE’s partnership with Chalice Press, it embodies the aims of FTE’s work to inspire young leaders to shape the future and reflects the relevance of the church in sharing God’s love, justice, and compassion.”

ABOUT THE FORUM FOR THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION

The Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) is a leadership incubator that inspires young people to make a difference in the world through Christian communities. Founded in 1954, FTE is committed to cultivating diverse young adults to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and the



academy. FTE provides resources and a forum for young adults and students to explore their purpose and call to pastoral ministry and teaching. Visit FTE online at: www.fteleaders.org. For more information, contact Kimberly Daniel: kdaniel@fteleaders.org, 678-369-6243.

ABOUT CHALICE PRESS

Chalice Press is an imprint of the Christian Board of Publication, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1911. Chalice Press publishes resources inviting all people into deeper relationship with God, equipping them as disciples of Jesus Christ, and sending them into ministries as the Holy Spirit calls them. The resources of Chalice Press highlight faith and spirituality, social justice, congregational life, theology, and outdoor ministry tools. For more information, visit Chalice Press online at www.chalicepress.com. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ChalicePress and on Twitter @ChalicePress. For more information, contact Steve Knight: sknight@chalicepress.com, 314-231-8500, ext. 7.

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