Who Are We?
What do we believe?
Where can we go together?

November 5-7, 1989

The Interdenominational Theological Center
671 Beckwith Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Co-Sponsors
The Interdenominational Theological Center
The American Jewish Committee
The National Interreligious Task Force on Black-Jewish Relations
The Interdenominational Theological Center will be the setting for a unique and compelling conference bringing together Black and Jewish seminary students for two days of dialogue, study and worship. The Christian Seminary participants are students in the 6 schools which make up ITC. Rabbinic students coming to Atlanta are from Seminaries in Cincinnati, New York and Philadelphia.

The seminarians conference will explore a series of contemporary issues of concern to seminarians of the African American and the Jewish communities. The conference will use these issues to enable the participants to better understand their own traditions and the traditions, sensitivities and insights of seminarians of another minority religious tradition.

The conference will explore four related issues. Each group will grapple with the question: How do we define ourselves? The quest to define ourselves necessarily requires discussing our individual identity as well as group identification. Investigating how we define ourselves is significantly influenced by our ethnic identification. The conference then will turn its attention to exploring the tension between ethnic identification and the Biblical social ethic. This issue will be examined by the scholarly study of a Biblical text. A practical application of how the tension between the Biblical social ethic and ethnic identity is worked out in the political arena will be examined by two distinguished congressmen who have worked and struggled together on many social issues. Finally, the conference will conclude with the Seminarians sharing visions of their ministry within their congregations and the broader community in which they will live. This will be enhanced by the presentations of rabbis and ministers already engaged in programs strengthening Black-Jewish relations in different parts of the country.
NOVEMBER 5
8:30-10:00 p.m. Opening Session
ITC Chapel

*Introductions*
Sharing Theological Experiences
Seminary Students
Rabbi-Minister Teams

NOVEMBER 6
8:00-10:00 a.m. Jewish Worship Service
Breakfast
The Temple
1589 Peachtree Road
Bus departs ITC at
7:30 a.m. and returns to
ITC at 10:00 a.m.

10:30 -11:30 a.m. Welcome
Dr. James Costen
President ITC
Rabbi A. James Rudin
National Director
Interreligious Affairs, AJC

SESSION I
DEFINING MY COMMUNITY

*Keynote Speakers*
Dr. Johnnetta Cole, President
Spelman College, Atlanta
Dr. Rela Geffen Monson
Professor of Sociology
Acting Dean for Academic Affairs
Gratz College, Philadelphia

11:30-12:00 p.m. Questions and Answers
12:00-1:00 p.m. Breakout Groups
1:00-1:30 p.m. Students Report Back
1:30-2:15 p.m. Lunch
ITC Cafeteria

2:15-3:00 p.m. Informal Dialogue

SESSION II
3:30-5:30 p.m.
ETHICS & GROUP RESPONSIBILITY

Presenters
Dr. Riggins Earl
Associate Professor of Ethics, ITC
Dr. Reuven Kimmelman
Associate Professor of Talmud and Midrash
Brandeis University

Biblical Text
Genesis: Chapters 2-4

6:00-6:45 p.m. Dinner
ITC Cafeteria

SESSION III
7:00-9:30 p.m.
LEADERSHIP IN ACTION
ETHNIC IDENTITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
THINGS THAT UNITE AND DIVIDE US

Distinguished Guests
Congressman Howard Berman
California
Congressman John Lewis
Georgia

Response
Clergy Teams

NOVEMBER 7
7:30-8:15 a.m. Breakfast
ITC Cafeteria

SESSION IV
VISIONS & SUCCESSES
8:15-9:30 a.m. DEFINING MY CALLING and MY VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Featuring
Seminary Students

9:30-11:00 a.m. WHAT BRINGS US TOGETHER — BUILDING BRIDGES

Featuring
Clergy Teams

11:00-12:00 Noon Christian Worship Service
ITC Chapel

12:15-1:45 p.m. Lunch
ITC Cafeteria

Closing Remarks

2:00 p.m. Adjournment
CONFERENCES CO-CHAIRS
Dr. James H. Costen
Rabbi A. James Rudin

PLANNING COMMITTEE
Dr. David Blumenthal
Sherry Frank
Benita Gayle-Almeleh
Dr. David Shannon
Rabbi Zvi Shapiro
Sunny Stern

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The American Jewish Committee