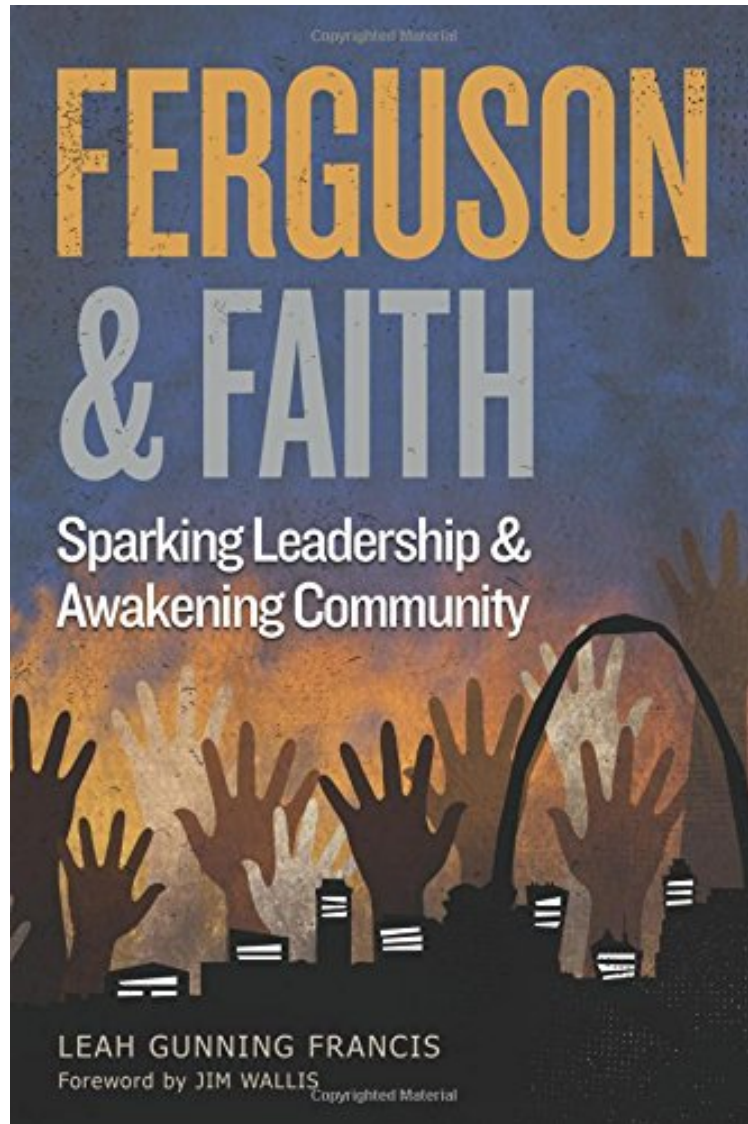


(Read now) Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community

Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community

Leah Gunning Francis
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Leah Gunning Francis : Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wow. Just wow..By CustomerA must read for any pastor or any leader considering the essential work of justice. And if you are a leader or pastor of a faith community and aren't

thinking justice work is your job, then you may doubly need this excellent book. So inspired and lots to think about. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. How BLM started By Neil Harmon This book does a great job of describing how the BLM movement started and was sustained by the communities in greater St. Louis. The focus is on the relationships between clergy and the young protesters but it provides a good overall view. The technique used in the book is individual recollections with connective background and information. This has produced a powerful and informative story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Orthopraxy By Brandon Focused primarily on orthopraxy as opposed to orthodoxy. Although the distinction between the two is rather artificial, this book demonstrates how a holistic theology takes a practical element. Through an examination of the Michael Brown tragedy and the BLM movement, the author interviews and examines several religious leaders and youths on their understanding of faith put to practice in the context of BLM.

The shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, reignited a long-smoldering movement for justice, with many St. Louis-area clergy stepping up to support the emerging young leaders of today's Civil Rights Movement. Seminary professor Leah Gunning Francis was among the activists, and her interviews with more than two dozen faith leaders and with the new movement's organizers take us behind the scenes of the continuing protests. *Ferguson and Faith* demonstrates that being called to lead a faithful life can take us to places we never expected to go, with people who never expected us to join hands with them. *Ferguson and Faith* is the first book from the partnership of the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE) and Chalice Press.

"Leah Gunning Francis's conversations with both the clergy and the young activists show how important it is for communities of faith to reach out to a new generation of young leaders and help elevate and nurture their gifts. What many of the clergy interviewed in this book realized in the course of the Ferguson protests was that rather than sitting back in their sanctuaries and waiting for the young people to seek out the church for guidance or leadership, it was the church that needed to go out and meet the young people where they were, joining them shoulder to shoulder, on the streets, in the struggle for justice." --From the foreword by Jim Wallis, Sojourners

"This is a very important book. Leah Gunning Francis has penned a theological memoir of a movement. It is an invitation to see the spirituality at the heart of this movement. And it is an invitation to get into the streets ... since we don't just change the world with our heads, but with our hands and feet and sweat and tears. One of the most important things this book does is celebrate a new generation of activists and faith-rooted organizers, without forgetting the freedom-fighters of old. This is not your granny's revolution. A fresh, new, holy uprising is happening if we will only have eyes to see and ears to hear and the courage to join them in the streets." --Shane Claiborne, author, activist, speaker

"Their work was a work of justice. This volume is a work of justice too, as it allows us to hear the voices of both the young activists and the clergy who were on the streets of Ferguson during those stressful weeks and months. The ecclesiology that emerges from these testimonies is compelling. This is a must-read for all leaders of faith communities. In addition, this is a model for the power of qualitative research to change the narrative. Because Leah Gunning Francis has allowed the voices of these leaders to speak through her pages, we have a completely different picture of what was happening in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. Her work allows us to hear and see the vocation of the church, of the clergy, and of all children on God." --Margaret Ann Crain, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

About the Author Dr. Leah Gunning Francis is the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is also the author of book *Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community* (Chalice Press, 2015). She interviewed more than two dozen clergy and young activists who were actively involved in the movement for racial justice in Ferguson and beyond. Dr. Gunning Francis researched and wrote *Ferguson and Faith* while serving as the Associate Dean for Contextual Education and Assistant Professor of Christian Education at Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. In 2012, Dr. Gunning Francis was awarded the prestigious Engaged Scholars Fellowship to study issues of risk among middle-class African American young men. She argues that the meta-narrative about young black men puts all of them "at risk," regardless of socioeconomic class, and utilizes the narrated experiences of black mothers to construct a new narrative about young black men that honors their humanity and is concerned for their well-being. Dr. Gunning Francis' additional research interests focus on transformative education as reflected in her doctoral dissertation, *Beyond "Band-Aids" and Bootstraps: Toward a Womanist Vision of Christian Education as Social Transformation*. Her writing reflects her commitment to the spiritual, emotional and physical well-being of women, men and children; and highlights her particular interest in underserved and minority communities. Dr. Gunning Francis has served as an adjunct professor for the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, and has provided pastoral leadership for congregations in Georgia, Illinois and Ohio. She has received numerous awards to include the Candler School of Theology's G. Ray Jordan award for excellence in integrating academic study with constructive leadership and service, and the Fund for Theological Education's Doctoral Fellow Award. Dr. Gunning Francis earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from Hampton University; a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University; and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. A native of Willingboro, New Jersey, Dr. Gunning Francis is

married to Rev. Rodney Francis. They live in Indianapolis with their elementary school aged children.