



## **Candid Conversations on Racial Reconciliation in the Church**

### ***Get to know the Panelists!***

**Nicole Dickens**



Nicole M. Dickens has Fortune 100 and startup management experience in strategic planning and analysis, new product introductions, business/organizational development and financial management. She has developed high functioning teams in both spin-off and merger environments, and successfully executed the implementation of business process and controls. She also consults in developing nations to help SMBs grow as a means of dealing with poverty and unemployment within these nations. She has teamed up with other colleagues to develop various products and services around helping people live authentic, impactful lives in the marketplace that is consistent with their belief systems.

Nicole has also held various positions on the boards of nonprofits, including Board Chair. She received an MBA from the Ross School at the University of Michigan and a B.S. in Commerce from the McIntire School at the University of Virginia. Nicole is currently the founder of Zoetica, Inc., a company seeking to help entrepreneurs bring new ideas to life and is on the managing team of Passion Talks, International. She is a member of the 4word: Bay Area-Silicon Valley leadership team.

**Joi Freeman**



Strategist. Youth culture enthusiast. Advocate for the voices of vulnerable populations. Joi Freeman thrives in chaos and is a natural-born influencer. Widely regarded as a brand “fixer,” she possesses a unique talent for creating compelling strategies out of disorder and streamlining messages. She helps professionals realize their potential and has a knack for moving teams from the place where they are stuck to the place they want to be.

Her work launching brands and transforming culture spans industries and sectors with a roster including The Boston Consulting Group, the YMCA, Claire’s & Icing stores, the Girl Scouts, MoneyGram International, McDonald’s and Burger King. Recently she founded Remnant Strategy a consultancy working at the intersection of culture and business to council brands through the process of mapping the next and better chapter to their story.

In addition to her work advising companies, Joi has also worked with HOPE Worldwide on various projects including early childhood development in South Africa and brand strategy in Kenya. She is currently completing her MBA at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management.

### Brittany Prather



With an innate passion for Diversity and Inclusion and striving to provide equitable opportunities where there are gaps, Brittany aims to share her heart with others and continue to serve where she is needed. Born and raised in Minnesota, Brittany grew up in a bi-racial household and wants to bring that experience into everything she does.

Brittany works as a Campus Recruiting Specialist for a Consulting firm and earned her MBA in 2016. Brittany spends her time outside of work serving on several non-profit boards, leading 4word: Twin Cities, working on her fitness, and enjoying time with family and friends.

### LaDonna Slade



LaDonna Slade has over 20 years management consulting experience in the technology, training and change management industries. She also has experience in the entrepreneurial space, through her consulting firm, Velvet Leaf ([www.velvetleafglobal.com](http://www.velvetleafglobal.com)). She is a Strategic Advisor, Speaker and Coach. She works with solopreneurs, small businesses and non-profits to organize their businesses to be more productive and profitable. LaDonna is a member of the 4word: Austin leadership team.

LaDonna also produces pop-up empowerment events to creatively help women understand how to take that next step towards their dreams and goals. ([www.tractioninheels.com](http://www.tractioninheels.com))

### Guest Moderator Nicole Martin



Nicole Martin currently serves as the Vice President of Church Engagement and Executive Director of Trauma Healing. She joined American Bible Society in 2016 as a City Mobilizer in Charlotte, NC and later served as the Director of US Ministry, supporting Scripture Engagement efforts in cities across the US.

A former management consultant with Deloitte Consulting in Chicago, Nicole has also previously served as an Executive Minister at a multi-site church in Charlotte, NC. She teaches courses in Ministry and Leadership Development at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and is the author of two books: *Made to Lead: Empowering Women for Ministry* and *Leaning In, Letting Go: A Lenten Devotional*. Nicole has authored several articles that have been featured in USA Today, Christianity Today, and The Charlotte Observer. As a nationally recognized speaker, she has been inducted into the prestigious Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College.

Nicole is a graduate of Vanderbilt University with a triple major in Human and Organizational Development, Educational Studies, and French. She earned her Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and her Doctor of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She serves on the Board of the National Association of Evangelicals and is also a member of the Board of Trustees at Gordon College in New England. Nicole currently resides in Baltimore with her husband, Dr. Mark Martin, and their two daughters, Addison and Josephine.