

# CONFRONTING THE HOPELESSNESS OF IMMIGRATION

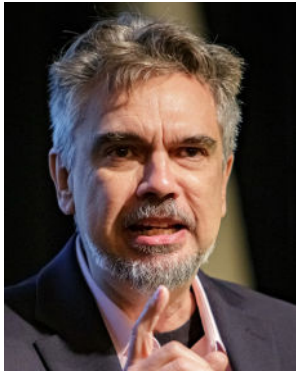
Sept. 15-17, 2023

## 38th Annual Theologian in Residence Program

Co-Hosts: Ames United Church of Christ, National UCC, Iowa Conference UCC, Central Association UCC  
Free and Open to the Public

Available in person at Ames UCC Church and through a national UCC webinar/Ames UCC Zoom

### Theologian in Residence



**The Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, Professor—Author—Scholar Activist.** He is professor of social ethics and Latinx studies, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo. His books include: *Trails of Hope and Terror: Testimonies on Immigration* (2009); *The U.S. Immigration Crisis: Toward an Ethics of Place* (2016); *Embracing Hopelessness* (2017); *Decolonizing Christianity: Becoming Badass Believers* (2021); *Shifting Climates, Shifting People* (2023). He is the recipient of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) Excellence in Teaching Award (2020) and the AAR Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award (2021). Originally from Cuba, he has been active in immigration issues at the US southern border. In addition to his books, he has produced a number of videos focusing on immigration issues.

### The Program

#### Friday, Sept. 15.

Iowa State University Free Public Lecture. “Why They Come: Exploring the Immigration Crisis at the Southern Border,” Miguel De La Torre. 6 p.m. Room 2630 Memorial Union.

#### Saturday, Sept. 16

Morning Sessions: National UCC Webinar broadcast from Ames UCC Church, 217 6th St., Ames IA 50010. Attend either in person or online.

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m.** Video broadcast “Trails of Hope and Terror (2009)” followed by Q&A session with Miguel De La Torre.

#### **10:30-10:45 Break**

**10:45-noon.** “Confronting the Hopelessness of Immigration.” Miguel De La Torre. Discussion with Q&A.

**Noon-1:00 p.m.** . Attendees are invited to join in a box lunch served at the church. Cost is \$10.00.

Afternoon sessions are in-person at Ames UCC Church or by Ames UCC Zoom.

**1:00-2:15 p.m.** Panel discussion: “How Communities Welcome and Address Issues Immigrants Face.” Speakers include:

- Rob Denson, president, Des Moines Area Community College
- Maria Ramos, Storm Lake, IA
- Erica Johnson, executive director, Iowa Migrant

Movement for Justice

- Anneke Mundel, United Way.
- Jasmin Banderas, Marshall County Community

Response Coalition

#### **2 :15-2:30 Break**

**2 :30-3 :45 p.m.** Panel discussion: “What Can Faith Communities and Individuals Do?”

Speakers include:

- David Hansen, chair, Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners. Congregation considerations and individual opportunities to sponsor and support immigrants;
- Rev. Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz, lead pastor, Trinity Las Americas United Methodist Church, Des Moines, Iowa
- Merced Cruz, social worker and member, Trinity Las Americas United Methodist Church, Des Moines, Iowa
- Rev. Linda Hanson, opportunities for travel to border crossings and countries to better understand immigration motivations, opportunities and problems;

**3:45-4:00 p.m.** : Summary and wrap-up: Miguel De La Torre

#### **Sunday, Sept. 17**

**9:00-9:50 a.m.** Dialogue with Miguel De La Torre concerning immigration issues. Fellowship Hall, Ames UCC Church, 217 6th St., Ames IA 50010. [Not available via Zoom].

**10:00-11:00 am.** Sunday Worship Service at Ames UCC Church. Miguel De La Torre preaching. Everyone is welcome. Online Zoom Access provided.

### Registration

The theologian-in-residence event is open to everyone without charge. Whether you choose to attend in person or online, we ask that you register for the event so that you can receive reminders and so that we can adequately plan for you. Register at [Amesucc.org](http://Amesucc.org). You also will be asked if you wish to make a voluntary donation.