



Voice of the Faithful® 2014 Assembly

Panel Member

Thomas W. Porter

Panel Discussion: Pathways to Healing & Reform

Connecticut Convention Center – Saturday, April 5, 2014

Thomas W. Porter, Jr., is a trial lawyer, mediator, teacher and minister. He is a lecturer at Boston University School of Theology where he directs a program in Religion and Conflict Transformation. He was Executive Director of JUSTPEACE Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation in the United Methodist Church from 2000 to 2012. He is the editor of the book *Conflict and Communion: Reconciliation and Restorative Justice at Christ's Table*, the author of *The Spirit and Art of Conflict Transformation: Creating a Culture of JustPeace*, and co-author of *The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation*.



Tom teaches a course in Restorative Justice, with Boston University law school students and seminarians studying together. He helped develop a restorative justice grievance procedure for the United Methodist Church.

Tom is an elder in the United Methodist Church and a member of the New England Annual Conference, where he was the chancellor for 23 years. He was a founding partner of the trial firm Melick & Porter LLP in 1983 and has been a trial lawyer since 1974, representing religious institutions, universities, hospitals, professionals, nonprofit organizations and others.

He is a member of the board of the *Journal of Law and Religion* and was chair of the board from 1989 through 2001. He was a founder and the president of the Council of Religion and Law, a society of law professors and theologians, as well as lawyers and ministers, from 1978 to 1985.

In addition to degrees from Yale University, Union Theological Seminary, and the Boston University School of Law, Tom has studied at Harvard Law School and Eastern Mennonite University.

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