Hands United Building Bridges (HUBB) to be honored at Tidewater Humanitarian Awards Dinner

Thursday, March 30, 5:45 pm
The Westin, Virginia Beach Town Center

HUBB for its efforts to promote inclusive community connections.
HUBB was founded by Rabbi Jeffrey Arnowitz of Congregation Beth El and Dr. Antipas Harris, professor in the School of Divinity at Regent University and Theologian-in-Residence at First Presbyterian Church in Norfolk.

The challenge for clergy, Rabbi Arnowitz says, is to find the appropriate response. “The violence in Ferguson and Baltimore were several months apart and I remember feeling that is was very important, but I wasn’t sure how to respond. I was anxious to handle with care, anything that could be seen as political from the pulpit.”

Arnowitz contacted other faith leaders to discern if they, too, were having a similar experience and soon joined forces with Dr. Harris. “The theme that came up again and again was that our community was not so different. We have a tremendous level of de facto segregation, among our neighborhoods, not so much from city to city, but from neighborhood to neighborhood—and there is not a lot of communication between those different communities and there are a lot of assumptions between the communities.”

Arnowitz and Harris invited 20 faith leaders to meet to share concerns and garner new perspectives. Arnowitz says, “We wanted to become a hub for dialogue and exchange ideas.” It was decided “we should build bridges among ourselves first and then hopefully it would become organic—on how to approach these issues with our congregations. If anything should break out (racial unrest) in this area, we would know each other and be able to respond as an interfaith community.”

To attend the dinner or purchase a table for a business or organization, visit www.inclusiveva.org, or call 804-515-7950.

To purchase a seat at the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater/Tidewater Jewish Foundation table, contact Tammy Majica at tmujica@ujft.org or 757-965-6124.