

Leading for Justice in Tarrant County Facilitator Bios



Lydia Bean is a social scientist and organizer who has won hard fights for working families on issues like paid sick time, predatory lending, and criminal justice reform. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University.

In 2014, she founded Faith in Texas, a nonprofit that organizes churches, mosques, and synagogues across lines of race, ethnicity, and religion. Her research and commentary have been featured in the *Washington Post*, *Democracy*, *Washington Monthly*, *Inside Philanthropy*, *Sojourners*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Sociology of Religion*, and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. She is the author of *The Politics of Evangelical Identity*, published by Princeton University Press.

Lydia is a member of Broadway Baptist Church, along with her husband, public artist Norman Lee. When she's not chasing her toddler, she enjoys lifting weights, singing, baking bread, and smoking a Central Texas-style brisket.



Joe Swanson is a proud and native Texan with over a decade of experience building and executing policy campaigns advancing social, racial and economic justice. Most recently, Joe held the role of Lead Community Organizer with Faith in Texas where he developed expertise in faith-centered community organizing. There he trained and mobilized people of faith to confront the systemic injustices in their communities and through their holy texts and spiritual practices.

Before joining Faith in Texas, Joe was on staff with the American Civil Liberties Union of Texas successfully executing policy reforms across North Texas concerning immigration, criminal justice, and education.

Joe's family is his greatest gift. He is husband to the incredible Regan Lee Allen and he is learning to be the best father he can be for his new baby girl, Harper Swanson. While he is happy to discuss faith, social justice, and policy, he is even more thrilled to be outside backpacking, fishing, hunting, and barbecuing with friends and family. He also believes the Texas Rangers will win the world series every year.