

THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP PRESENTS
2021 SPRING VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

DIGITAL GUIDE

THE HINGES UPON WHICH THE FUTURE SWINGS:
WOMANISM AS A GATEWAY TO OUR FUTURE(S)



SUPPORTED BY



THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON
CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP

APRIL 8-10, 2021

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DIRECTOR'S OPENING LETTER

REV. MELANIE C. JONES

WELCOME TO THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP 2021 VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE!

Drawing from the Black Southern colloquial expression (you actin' womanish), the word "womanist" is a dynamic term that describes a growing field of study and social movement that takes seriously the historical and contemporary experiences of Black women while advocating for the wholeness and wellbeing of all humanity.

Union Presbyterian Seminary endowed the Center for Womanist Leadership "to inspire, equip, connect and support Black women divinely motivated to serve as change makers in their community." The guiding statement reflects the visionary insight of the late Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, former Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Union, who, in 1974, became the first African American woman to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 2019, Union Presbyterian Seminary Trustees named the Center in memory of our Founder.

The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership (KGCCWL) at Union Presbyterian Seminary recognizes the significance of centering Black women's scholarship and wisdom as viable sources and resources for theological education and the global community. With significant grant funding from The Henry Luce Foundation and a million-dollar endowment from Union Presbyterian Seminary, KGCCWL serves as a site of participatory learning for scholars, students, clergy, laity, activists, artists, entrepreneurs, and community leaders.

As her last living testament, Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon launched the Center in April 2018 with an inaugural conference featuring Pulitzer Prize novelist and womanist progenitor Alice Walker as the Keynote Speaker for opening night gathering more than 1,500 attendees and 250 conference participants. With an interest in maintaining the health and safety of our constituents in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, KGCCWL will host this year's Spring Conference virtually beginning Thursday, April 8, 2021 through Saturday, April 10, 2021.

KGCCWL's Virtual Spring conference is the premier gathering of womanist scholars, practitioners, activists, and leaders in the nation. This conference features more than 40 leading womanist voices who explore pressing questions, engage rigorous inquiry, and energize open dialogue essential to the freedom and flourishing of Black womankind. Through panel presentations, keynote lectures, interactive activities, and multifaceted, transgenerational, innovative conversations across disciplines, this conference is the culmination of the work of the Center integrating its six core tenets – womanist wellness, witness, wisdom, worship, wares, and works – which represent the holistic interconnections that help womanist leadership flourish.

The theme of the conference is **"The Hinges Upon Which the Future Swings: The Living Legacy**

of Womanism as a Gateway to Our Future(s),” which builds on Dr. Cannon’s naming of womanism as a “gatekeeper in the land of counterpain” bearing the moral wisdom to liberate communities and make whole. When Black women lead, everybody gets free. As we look to the future, KGCCWL seeks to support self-identified womanists, supporters, and allies in their quest to cultivate new pathways for whole communities. The Future Is Womanist!

This year, we have curated special Friday evening and Saturday sessions for youth ages 12 to 18. These sessions seek to develop the next generation of womanist leaders through collaborative learning, creative writing, art, ritual, and imaginative play. The youth leaders will engage exciting topics to hone ambition, brilliance, and the divine creativity that youth embody.

The best way to prepare for a virtual conference is to plan your time by taking the weekend off to attend the sessions and share with conference attendees in real time. In the event that you miss an event, every registrant will have on-demand access to the conference for 90 days beginning April 19, 2021 on the EXPO conference platform.

A virtual conference of this magnitude with more than 475 participants and 40+ speakers require months of planning and numerous hours of preparation to curate. We are grateful for the Black-owned production team, All About Presentations, and amazing videographers Kinfolk Media, iNow Tech Solutions, and Designs by JK for their tireless efforts to bring this dream to life onscreen. Thank you to the KGCCWL staff, the KGCCWL Advisory Council, the Cannon family, and the Union Presbyterian Seminary community for your ongoing contributions to the Center’s success.

We are incredibly grateful to sponsors, exhibitors, vendors who have invested in this conference to sell wares or share information about their program offerings. Please visit the virtual booths to patron these businesses and learn more about these institutions.

May this digital conference guide be a helpful resource as you embark on an amazing virtual experience.

Are you ready? Let’s tap into our superpowers!

Sincerely,



The Reverend Melanie C. Jones

Director of The Katie Geneva Cannon
Center for Womanist Leadership
Instructor of Ethics, Theology, and Culture
Union Presbyterian Seminary





Brian K. Blount *President & Professor of New Testament*

UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

Richmond, VA

Charlotte, NC

April 8, 2021

Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership Attendees

Dear Friends:

Several years ago, the Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon and I sat in my office and dreamed a dream. Her vision of a Center that would focus on work that was a vital part of her academic mission, and now legacy, bloomed before us. She spoke passionately about her hope to connect her scholarly work to the communal initiatives of improving the circumstances for women of color in Richmond, VA and beyond. Her hands gesturing with conviction, she explained how the idea of a Center for Womanist Leadership might begin. A programmatic initiative was a great way to start. She called it “Squaring the Womanist Circle.” And she was certain that this was not a program that Union Presbyterian Seminary could pull off on its own. Right from the start she began thinking of the scholars and scholarship at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. She then envisioned an even broader alliance. She called to mind womanist scholars from around the U.S. and the world who would be wonderful conversation partners. And she began to build, right there in front of my eyes.

The academic, ecclesial, and community response to Professor Cannon’s vision was affirmation and celebration. And it was immediate. So, immediately, we set to work putting the full focus of her passion and the full support of the UPSem administration into motion. Foundation grants were secured. The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation responded to her vision with a grant that helped us launch the effort. The Henry Luce Foundation responded to her vision with a grant that secured the work of the Center into the immediate future. Knowing how important the work of the Center is to the church and the academy, UPSem’s Board of Trustees recently pledged to endow the program so that when the Luce funding ends, the seminary’s endowment will carry the program and its work into the distant future. It is the work Katie Geneva Cannon’s spirit would most certainly want us to have as a part of the life and ministry of Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Let me today welcome you, as a participant in this 2021 Virtual Spring Conference, to this transformational work. As President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, I am honored to have the privilege of welcoming you to this latest incarnation of the Cannon Center’s mission endeavor. While you are here (virtually speaking!) know that you are at home. Home with this work. Home with the woman who envisioned this work. Home with Katie. May your experience in this gathering bring to you a full and sustaining measure of womanist wellness, witness, worship, wisdom, wares, and works!

Faithfully,

Brian K. Blount

3401 Brook Road Richmond, VA 23227 bblount@upsem.edu e-mail
 (804) 278-4200 phone (800) 229-2990 toll-free (804) 278-4378 fax www.upsem.edu website

THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP

MISSION

The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership (KGCCWL) of Union Presbyterian Seminary is an organization that aims to inspire, equip, connect and support Black women divinely motivated to serve as change makers in their community. *The mission of KGCCWL is to nurture the soul work of Black women for the cultivation of new pathways to whole communities.*

VISION

KGCCWL is committed to equipping Black women for change making by curating ways to mine their diverse gifts within and offering holistic support (mind, body, spirit) for the benefit of Black and marginalized communities. *The vision of KGCCWL is to become the premier catalyst illuminating and embodying womanist theory and practice in the globe.*

CORE INITIATIVES

KGCCWL outlines six, high-priority initiatives that enliven the flourishing of womanist leadership:

- ✦ **Womanist Wellness** – fostering health, healing and holistic wellbeing
- ✦ **Womanist Witness** – engaging communities through advocacy and inspiring emerging leaders
- ✦ **Womanist Wisdom** – academic, publishing, and archiving component
- ✦ **Womanist Worship** – connectional programming with faith communities and affirming Black women’s religious leadership
- ✦ **Womanist Wares** – encouraging social entrepreneurship and building sustainable communities
- ✦ **Womanist Works** – integrating and interrogating “the arts” as sources for thriving

TRAILBLAZER. PIONEER. LEGEND. OUR FOUNDER.

REV. DR. KATIE GENEVA CANNON

Born on January 3, 1950, in Kannapolis, NC, Katie Geneva Cannon was born to Esau and Corine Lytle Cannon.

A woman of firsts. Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon was the first African-American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 1974. Dr. Cannon earned a degree in education at Barbara Scotia College (Concord, NC) and a Master of Divinity from Johnson C. Smith at the Interdenominational Theological Center (Atlanta, GA). Cannon became the first African-American to earn the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Union Theological Seminary of New York in 1983.



A scholar among scholars. Dr. Cannon was the Annie Scales Rogers Professor at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia from 2001-2018 and served on the faculty at Temple University, Episcopal Divinity School, Davidson College, Williams College, New York, and Harvard Divinity School. She lectured globally and locally to diverse audiences on a wide range of topics, including African-American social ethics, womanism, pedagogy, and preaching. Cannon authored *Black Womanist Ethics* (1988), *Katie's Canon: Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community* (1995), *Teaching Preaching: Isaac Rufus Clark and Black Sacred Rhetoric* (2002), and a host of edited anthologies, articles, and other works. Most notably, she served as the President of the Society of the Study of Black Religion (2004-2008) and founding convener of The Daughters of the African Atlantic Fund.

A decorated teacher. Dr. Cannon received the 2006 Distinguished Professor Award from Spelman College, the 2011 Excellence in Teaching Award from The American Academy of Religion, the 2015 UNION MEDAL (the highest award of distinction presented by Union Theological Seminary in New York City), and the 2018 Beautiful Are the Feet Award from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. At the 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Dr. Cannon was bestowed the Excellence in Theological Education Award.

A guiding Spirit. Dr. Cannon organized and founded the Center for Womanist Leadership on the 44th anniversary of her ordination in April 2018. She died on August 9, 2018, after a brief illness with acute leukemia. The Board of Trustees of Union Presbyterian Seminary named the Center in her honor in 2019 following her passing. "Teaching is my ministry," she said in a final interview with PCUSA, "I love teaching to empower, to equip, to set people free." Dr. Cannon did the work her soul must have.

STAFF



Reverend Melanie C. Jones
Director



LaTiscia P. Fowlkes
Event Coordinator



**Reverend Paula Owens
Parker, D.Min.**
Program Associate



Aria M. Kirkland-Harris
Womanist Graduate Fellow

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and Early Christianity, Howard
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Alum, Union Presbyterian
Seminary CLT
Associate Minister, Caldwell
Presbyterian Church



Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Ph.D.
E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter
Associate Professor of Ethics and
Society, Vanderbilt University
Executive Director, Black Religious
Scholars Group (BRSG, Inc.)



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Seminary RIC
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Dewitt Proctor School of Theology
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Bridgett Cannon
The Katie Geneva Cannon Estate
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for Wealth Management Client
Care, Bank of America/Merrill



**Reverend Debora Jackson,
D.Min.**
Dean of the Robert A. Foisie School
of Business, Worcester Polytechnic
Institute



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 Owner, ALlyd Solutions
 Philanthropic Strategist PhD
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 Sacred Rhetoric, Christian
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Gaynell Sherrod, Ph.D.
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 Ph.D.**
 Asst. Professor at University of San
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 Executive Director, Society of the
 Study of Black Religion



Dana Purdom
 Student, Union Presbyterian
 Seminary
 Recipient, Presbyterian Mission
 Agency Katie Geneva Cannon
 Scholarship



**Reverend Renita J. Weems,
 Ph.D.**
 Co-Pastor, Ray of Hope
 Community Church
 Senior Fellow for Center for
 American Progress



**Reverend Kimberly Ridley,
 D.Min.**
 Founding Pastor, The Light
 Community Church RVA

CONTACT INFORMATION

📍 Union Presbyterian Seminary
 (Richmond campus)
 3401 Brook Road
 Richmond, VA 23227
 📞 804-278-4277
 ✉️ cwl@upsem.edu

🌐 www.centerforwomanistleadership.org
 📘 @centerforwomanistleadership
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AGENDA

THURSDAY

6:30 - 7:00 pm **Opening Night Pre-Show**

7:00 - 8:30 pm **Gateway to Womanist Wisdom: Opening Night**

- Rev. Melanie C. Jones
- President Brian Blount, Ph.D.
- Dean Richard Boyce, Ph.D.
- Bridgette Cannon
- Alicia Garza
- The String Queens

8:30 - 9:00 pm **Window Seat x Pink Robe Chronicles**

Rev. Melva Sampson, Ph.D.

FRIDAY

8:00 - 9:00 am **Mindful Movement**
Rev. Stephanie Crumpton, Th.D.

9:00 - 9:40 am **Keynote Lecture**
Rev. Barbara Holmes, Ph.D/J.D.

10:00 - 11:30 am **Verzuz Panel: Womanism v. Feminism**

- Monique Moultrie, Ph.D.
- Patricia Hill Collins, Ph.D.
- Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Ph.D.
- Tamura Lomax, Ph.D.
- Dean Yolanda Pierce, Ph.D.
- Rev. Eboni Marshall Turman, Ph.D.
- Rev. Traci West, Ph.D.

11:30 - 12:30 pm **Expo Time x Artisan Café**
Exhibitors, Vendors, Sponsors

12:30 - 1:00 pm **Filmmaker Spotlight**

- Min. Nila Curry
- LeRhonda Manigault Bryant, Ph.D.

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Gateway to Womanist Wellness***Coming Up for Air: Womanist Wellness as an Act of Resistance***

- Rev. Thema Bryant-Davis, Ph.D., Presenter
- Izegbe Onyango, Moderator

Tilling the Soil, Exposing the Roots: Discovering Our Ancestral Legacies

- Rev. Paula Owens Parker, D.Min., Presenter
- Pam Smith, Presenter
- Rev. Lisa Johnson, D.Min., Moderator

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Gateway to Womanist Witness***Who Made These Rules? Womanist Leadership as Breaking Barriers***

- President Lakeesha Walrond, Ph.D., Presenter
- Rev. Annette Jones, D.Min., Moderator

Do It For Your Future Self: Manifesting Vision, Matching Vibration

- Ebony Janice Moore, Presenter
- Min. Kathlene Judd, Moderator

3:00 - 3:30 pm

Centering Moment

Coffee Break with Dean Neichelle Guidry, Ph.D.

5:00 - 6:00 pm

Networking Sessions

- **Wine Down** – Chrishon Lampley
- **Allies** – Mary E. Hunt, Ph.D.
- **Seminarians** – Taqiyah Elliott and Dana Purdom
- **Clergywomen** – Rev. Gail Henderson Belsito
- **Girls Zone (Y)** – Keisha Blount Nelson

6:00 - 7: 00 pm

Art with Austin – Austin Miles***Brave, Black, Bold Workshop (Y)***

Cheryl Willis Hudson

7:00 - 8: 00 pm

Cooking Master Class – Chef Tanorria Askew***Art with Austin (Y)***

Austin “AUZ” Miles

SATURDAY

8:00 - 9:00 am

Morning Glory Worship Service

- Rev. Melanie C. Jones
- Rev. Mia McClain
- The Howard Gospel Choir
- Rev. Renita J. Weems, Ph.D.

9:00 - 10:30 am

God, Spirit, Ancestors, and the Earth: Futuring Womanist Interreligious Dialogue Panel

- Rachel Harding, Ph.D.
- Rev. Monica Coleman, Ph.D.
- Debra Majeed, Ph.D.
- Pamela Ayo Yetunde, Ph.D.
- Meredith Coleman Tobias, Ph.D.

10:30 - 11:30 am

Gateway to Womanist Worship*Passages, Portals, Pathways: Womanist Rituals for Pandemic Times*

- Itihari Toure, Ed.D.
- Rev. Estee Nena Dillard, Moderator

Just Worship: Womanist Worship as Praxis for Building Just Communities

- Rev. Alisha Lola Jones, Ph.D.
- Rev. Tara Gibbs, Moderator

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Queer AF: Womanist Futures and Queer Perspectives

- Elyse Ambrose, Ph.D.
- Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi
- Rev. Kyndra Frazier
- Rev. Pamela Lightsey, Ph.D.
- Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart
- Nikki Young, Ph.D.

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Gateway to Womanist Wares*Womanist X: Cultivating Pathways to Whole Communities*

- Min. Aria Kirkland-Harris, Presenter
- Rev. Tarsha Banister, Moderator

From the Ground Up: Money Moves for Self-Made Entrepreneurs

- Amanda E. Johnson, Presenter
- Min. Zaneta Y. Dabney, Moderator

-
- 2:00 - 3:00 pm** **Loves the Struggle” Movement-Making for the Culture: An Intergenerational Conversation**
- Stephanie Younger
 - Ruby Nell Sales
-
- 3:00 - 4:00 pm** **Keynote Lecture**
Dean Emilie Townes, Ph.D.
-
- 4:30 - 6:30 pm** **Expo Time x Artisan Café**
Exhibitors, Vendors, Sponsors
-
- 7:00 - 8:00 pm** **Gateway to Womanist Works**
An Evening of Entertainment with Tank and the Bangas
-
- 8:00 - 8:30 pm** **Window Seat Closing**
- Rev. Melanie C. Jones
 - Tank and the Bangas
-

*Schedule subject to change.

*All times are Eastern Time Zone

PRESENTER BIOS



ALICIA GARZA believes that Black communities deserve what all communities deserve -- to be powerful in every aspect of their lives. An author, political strategist, organizer, and cheeseburger enthusiast, Alicia founded the Black Futures Lab to make Black communities powerful in politics. She is the co-creator of #BlackLivesMatter and the Black Lives Matter Global Network, serves as the Strategy & Partnerships Director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance, and is a co-founder of

Supermajority, a new home for women's activism. Alicia has become a powerful voice in the media and frequently contributes thoughtful opinion pieces and expert commentary on politics, race and more to outlets such as MSNBC and The New York Times. She has received numerous accolades and recognitions, including being on the cover of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World issue and being named to Bloomberg's 50 and Politico's 50 lists. She is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *The Purpose of Power: How We Come Together When We Fall Apart* (One World Penguin Random House), and she warns you -- hashtags don't start movements. People do.



THE REVEREND DR. ALISHA LOLA JONES is an assistant professor in the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology and faculty director of the Global Pop Music Initiative at Indiana University (Bloomington). Dr. Jones is a board member of the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM, a member of the strategic planning task force for the American Musicological Society (AMS), and a co-chair of the Music and Religion Section of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). Additionally, as a performer-scholar,

she consults museums, conservatories, seminaries, and arts organizations on curriculum, live and virtual event programming, and content development. Dr. Jones' book *Flaming?: The Peculiar Theopolitics of Fire and Desire in Black Male Gospel Performance* (Oxford University Press) breaks ground by analyzing the role of gospel music making in constructing and renegotiating gender identity among black men. Her research interests extend to global pop music, musics of the African diaspora, music and food, the music industry and the marketplace, and anti-oppressive ways of listening to black women. A little known fact is that Dr. Alisha Lola Jones and her sister Rev. Angela Marie Jones are co-owners of Paradise Media Group, a Black women-owned radio company based in Oxford and Henderson, NC continuing the multimedia work pioneered by their parents Rev. Dr. Alvin Augustus Jones and Rev. Dr. Martha Butler Jones. Rev. Dr. Alisha Lola Jones is newly wed to Rev. Calvin Taylor Skinner, her partner in both ministry and love. For more information, please visit DrAlisha.com.



AMANDA E. JOHNSON is the Co-Founder & COO of Mented Cosmetics, a pigment-first beauty brand celebrating women of all hues. Mented launched in January 2017 and has taken the beauty industry by storm by unapologetically placing women of color at the forefront. The company has been featured in several publications including Essence, Allure, Vogue and Black Enterprise, and the co-founders were honored with the 2019 Dreamers award from the National Retail Federation. A graduate of Howard

University and Harvard Business School, Amanda is excited to be an entrepreneur focused on digital strategy and brand building. With a myriad of experiences in finance, consumer marketing, and digital experience Amanda is excited to craft brand stories and build customer communities. Amanda is very involved in her community through involvement in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, The Junior League of New York, and Howard Alumni Association. Connect with Amanda on Twitter (@pretypensive) and on LinkedIn



ARIA MICHAL KIRKLAND-HARRIS is a seminarian, womanist practitioner, and ministry consultant. Aria is a Graduate Fellow at the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary where her research focus is Black women's (read womanist) approaches to economic sufficiency and sustainability.

Aria is also active in Baptist denominational life. In addition to being in school full-time, she serves the Baptist General Convention of Virginia as the Ministry Assistant for Administration and Development. In April 2019, Aria was accepted into the inaugural cohort of the American Baptist Home Mission Society (ABHMS) Co-Creators Incubator, a two-year integrative program for missional entrepreneurs that helps grow ministry ideas into viable ventures with a Christ-centered mission. Aria is also the Pastoral Intern and an active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Richmond, VA where the Rev. Dr. Adam L. Bond is pastor.

Before moving to Richmond to attend the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Aria made a living as freelance strategy consultant for churches, mainline denominations, and faith-based nonprofit institutions that work to transform communities through affordable housing, education, and community health initiatives. Her areas of expertise include nonprofit board development, advocacy and community organizing, PK-12 education policy, and fundraising.

Aria is an alumna of Teach For America, the Education Pioneers Graduate Fellowship Program, and The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation's Young Adult Life & Leadership Initiative. She holds a B.A. in Political Science and Psychology from Columbia University and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University. In her free time, Aria likes to explore different parts of the world through contemplative pilgrimages and retreats. She also enjoys outdoor music, food, and art festivals and recently discovered a love for hiking.



Originally from Durham, North Carolina, **AUSTIN "AUZ" MILES** is a practicing painter, designer, and public artist located in Richmond, VA. She uses color, texture, and distortion to embody her own stories and contribute to the conversation about Black female experiences. Miles is an alumna of Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts (VCU), receiving her Bachelors of Fine Arts in 2017. Her paintings are a glimpse into a realm where emotions are personified and become out-of-body experiences of connection. Through her work, Austin "Auz" Miles hosts visual conversations that ignite understanding and inspire community healing.

Austin "Auz" Miles has shown work at the Virginia Museum of History and Culture during their Fresh Paint(2018) and Mending Walls(2020) exhibitions. In addition, Miles collaborated with the Jamestown Settlement in 2019, creating two works featuring the tenacious tri-cultured women of Jamestown and the first Black women to be documented in the United States in 1619, Angelo. These paintings were displayed in their Tenacity exhibition. Austin "Auz" Miles has painted many vibrant, uplifting murals throughout Richmond's city and has shown her work in Virginia, North Carolina, Washington D.C., Atlanta GA, and Cusco Peru. #AuzCan #AuzDoes



THE REVEREND DR. BARBARA A. HOLMES is a spiritual teacher and writer focused on African American spirituality, mysticism, cosmology and culture. She is President Emerita of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (2012-2016). She also served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Memphis Theological Seminary (2005-2010). She holds the title of Professor Emerita of Ethics and African American Religious Studies at that seminary. Currently, she is a core faculty member at the Center for Action and Contemplation founded by Fr. Richard Rohr.

Holmes was called to ministry while working as a corporate lawyer for the J.C. Penney Corporation, and was ordained in the Latter Rain Apostolic Holiness Church in Dallas, Texas. Today, she has privilege of call in the United Church of Christ and recognition of ministerial standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Dr. Holmes grew up in New Haven, Connecticut, and was a member of Dixwell Avenue Congregational Church.

Dr. Holmes has earned the following degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a minor in Theatre Arts from the University of Connecticut; a Master of Science in Education from Southern Connecticut University; a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion (Ethics) from Vanderbilt. Also, she earned a law degree from Walter F. George School of Law, at Mercer University and practiced law in Miami, Atlanta, Macon and Dallas. She specialized in civil litigation, corporate, and appellate practice. She says, "My life is committed to the struggle for justice, the healing of the human spirit, and the art of relevant and radical creativity."

In addition, Dr. Holmes has worked with homeless missions; HIV/AIDS support groups and international ministries in Kenya (the Presbyterian Church of East Africa) and Japan. The author of several books and numerous articles, her most recent publications include: *The second revised edition of Race and the Cosmos: An Invitation to View the World Differently*, 2002, 2020; *Dreaming; Liberation and the Cosmos: Conversations with the Elders*; and *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church 2004*, second revised edition 2017. Dr. Holmes is married to George Ford and has two sons: Marcus, a film director, and Jason a professor of music.



CARMEN S. REID is a proud native of Macon, Georgia and the youngest daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Scott Reid Jr. and younger sister to Cierra Reid-Gibson and Cristen Reid (deceased). Back home, she serves as the youngest praise and worship leader for Beulahland Bible Church in Macon, Georgia, where Pastor Carlos Kelly is senior pastor. Carmen is also a part of the Music & Fine Arts Ministry and Women of Grace Ministry at Beulahland Bible Church. Carmen is a 2018 Summa Cum Laude graduate of Spelman

College in Atlanta, Ga., where she majored in Early Childhood Education. Carmen was a member of the Spelman College Glee Club and served as the chaplain for the glee club. Also, Carmen is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In addition, Carmen is one the charter members of the organization, Macon It!, which is dedicated to encouraging students, in her hometown, to graduate high school and attend college. Carmen enjoys singing, ministering to others, and spending time with her family and friends. She tries her best to live by the scripture, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity -1 Timothy 4:12”. In October 2018, Carmen became a licensed minister under the leadership of Pastor Carlos Kelly at Beulahland Bible Church. Carmen is currently attending Emory University’s Candler School of Theology pursuing a master’s degree in divinity, a member of RISE Women of Color Mentorship Network at Union Theological Seminary, and serves as a praise and worship leader at the Ray of Hope Christian Church under the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Hale. In the future, she hopes to become a teacher, establish her own foundation that brings awareness to heart health in honor of her grandmother, and continue to share the Word of God.



CHRISHON LAMPLEY | Success in today's marketplace is often defined by a person's ability to create something new while simultaneously paying homage to elements that are classic. However, success to Chrishon Lampley is inspiring at least one person to follow and reach their dreams.

Lamplery is a negotiant, wine enthusiast and founder of LCS Entertainment, LLC that features Love Cork Screw wines. Love Cork Screw is a lifestyle brand that launched six varietals December 2013 in Chicago. Since its inception, the LCS brand has acquired over 300 locations including, Target, Mariano's, Binny's, Whole Foods, World Market, Walmart and more.

Lamplery's 15 years' of experience in the industry has given her keen awareness of what the traditional wine novice and enthusiast enjoys and what the market is missing. Touching all senses, five wine-scented candles were added to the portfolio in 2014 available on Target.com, and online.

Lamplery leverages her platform to mentor young women and budding entrepreneurs. She gives her time and resources greatly to nonprofit organizations through sponsorship and speaking engagements. Lamplery has mentored youth through Urban Broadcast Media, Chicago Sky and Polished Pebbles to encourage Chicago's youth. She is a member and supporter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

LCS Entertainment, LLC is a licensed wholesaler and importer, and a certified Minority Business Enterprise.



LADY DANE FIGUEROA EDIDI | Dubbed the Ancient Jazz Priestess of Mother Africa, Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi is a Black Nigerian, Cuban, Indigenous, American Performance Artist, Author, Educator, Speech Writer, a Helen Hayes Award winning Playwright (*Klytmnestra: An Epic Slam Poem* (Helen Hayes Award 2020), *For Black Trans Girls...*, *Ghost/Writer*, *The Diaz Family Talent Show*, *Quest of The Reed Marsh Daughter*, *The Dance of Memories*), Advocate, Dramaturg, a 2x Helen Hayes Award

Nominated choreographer (2016, 2018) and co-editor/co-Director of the Black Trans Prayer Book.

She is the curator and a co-producer of Long Wharf Theater's *Black Trans Women At The Center: An Evening of Short Plays*. Her radio play, *Quest of The Reed Marsh Daughter*, can be heard on the Girl Tale's Podcast, and her play *The Diaz Family Talent Show* can be read on the Play at Home Website.

She was featured as Patra in *King Ester* and acted as a story consultant for the series. She wrote episode 9 (*Refuge*) of Round House Theater's web series *Homebound*, and was one of the writers for Arena Stage's short film *The 51st State*. www.LadyDaneFE.com



DR. DEBRA MAJEED, professor of religious studies and the Edwin F. Wilde, Jr. Distinguished Service Professor, is the first African-American woman and first Muslim to earn tenure at Beloit College. Majeed has made an indelible impact through her teaching and scholarship in the areas of religious studies, Islamic studies, cultural and identity studies, and womanist studies. As both scholar and practitioner, Majeed forged a path for greater public awareness of Islam, the American Muslim experience, African American Muslim perspectives, and gender and Muslim identity.

For more than 20 years, Majeed's teaching and scholarship have transformed communities. Her students speak well of her contributions through the Underkofler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Beloit College, an honor based on student nominations that Majeed received in 2017.

Dr. Majeed has authored numerous articles, book chapters, and, most notably, a full-length manuscript *Polygyny: What it Means When African American Muslim Women Share Their Husbands*, published by University Press of Florida (2016). She earned her undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University, her M.A. and M.Div. from Fuller Evangelical Theological Seminary, and her Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

Dr. Majeed is a member of the Board of Directors of the Daughters of the African Atlantic Fund who serves currently as Treasurer.



THE REVEREND EBONI MARSHALL TURMAN, PH.D. teaches theology, ethics, and African American religion at Yale University Divinity School in New Haven, CT. A first-career concert dancer and ordained National Baptist preacher, her research interests span the varieties of 20th century US theological liberalisms, most especially Black and womanist theological, social ethical, and theo-aesthetic traditions.

She co-chairs the Black Theology unit of the American Academy of Religion; is treasurer of the Society for the Study of Black Religion; a board member of the Society of Christian Ethics; and a founding member of the Black Church Collective for which she served as lead author of the recent "On Black Lives Matter: A Theological Statement from the Black Churches."

Dr. Turman is currently completing her second monograph tentatively titled, *Black Women's Burden: Male Power, Gender Violence, and the Scandal of African American Social Christianity*, and she has recently begun preliminary research for her third monograph titled, *In My Flesh Shall I See God: Black Womanist Theological Aesthetics*. Through her research and scholarship, Dr. Turman is transforming the way we frame the Black experience, the contemporary movement for Black lives, and the moral significance of the Black community—specifically the 21st century black church.

A trailblazer in the church and academy, she is the youngest woman to be named Assistant Minister of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City (2002-2012), and the second woman to preside over the ordinances in its 212-year history. She formerly served as Director of Black Church Studies at Duke University Divinity School (2013-2016).

She is the only womanist theological ethicist on faculty at Yale Divinity School; the recipient of the 2018 Yale University Bouchet Faculty Excellence award for research and teaching; the 2018 *Inspiring Yale* award; a 2017-18 Yale *Public Voices* fellow; one of *Ebony Magazine's Young Faith Leaders in the Black Community*; included on the *Network Journal's* prestigious *40 Under 40 List*; named as one of the "Top 5 Young Preachers in America" by *ROHO*; and Auburn Theological Seminary's 2017 "Lives of Commitment" honoree.

She lives in New York City with her wonderful spouse, Rossie E. Turman III, Esq., and their two beautiful daughters, Haarlem and Kroux. Follow Dr. Turman on Twitter and Instagram @ebonithoughts.



EBONY JANICE MOORE is a dynamic lecturer, transformational speaker, and passionate multi-faith preacher focused on Decolonizing Authority, Hip Hop Scholarship, Womanism as a Political and Spiritual/Religious tool for Liberation, Blackness as Religion, Dialogue as central to professional development and personal growth, and Women and Gender Studies focused on black girlhood. Ebony Janice has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and Political Science, and a Master of Arts in Social Change with a concentration in Spiritual Leadership, Womanist Theology, and Racial Justice. She is the founder of *Black Girl Mixtape*, a multi-platform safe think-space, centering the intellectual authority of black women in the form of a lecture series, a podcast, and an online learning institute lead by black women scholars, and *Dream Yourself Free*, a Spiritual Mentoring project focused on black women's healing, dreaming, ease, play and wholeness as their activism and resistance work.



ELYSE AMBROSE, PH.D. (she/her) is a black queer ethicist, creative, and educator. Her research, community praxis, and art lie at the intersections of race, sexuality, gender, and spirituality. Ambrose's desire for her scholarship to impact and be informed by real lives leads to her integration of theory and practice through phoenixspark, LLC, where she works with individuals toward shaping ethical values and practices related to gender and sexuality.

Her most recent photo-sonic work, entitled "Spirit in the Dark Body: Black Queer Expressions of the Im/material," premiered in November 2019 at the L Street Fine Arts Gallery (San Diego, CA) and has shown at the House of Mark West— one of the few black queer owned galleries in the country.

Ambrose currently serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethical Leadership and Society at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL) as a Louisville Institute Postdoctoral Fellow. Her research has been supported by the Yale University Sarah Pettit Fund, the Forum for Theological Exploration, the Louisville Institute for the Study of American Religion, Columbia University's Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice, the Henry Luce Foundation, Auburn Seminary and CrossCurrents Journal.

Ambrose's work and commentary has been featured in the Huffington Post, the Christian Century, Medium, ForHarriet, Vice, and CBC Radio One's Tapestry. She is also the curator and co-host of Black Queer Love, a podcast and social medium exploring relationships, sex, love, pop culture, life, healing, embodiment, and art from a black queer lens.

Elyse Ambrose is a graduate of Howard University (B.B.A, 2007), the Interdenominational Theological Center (M.Div., 2013) and Drew University (Ph.D., 2019). She is a native of New Orleans and currently resides in Chicago and New York City.



DEAN EMILIE M. TOWNES, an American Baptist clergywoman, is a native of Durham, North Carolina. She holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a Ph.D. in Religion in Society and Personality from Northwestern University. Dr. Townes is the Dean and Distinguished Professor of Womanist Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, becoming the first African American to serve as Dean of the Divinity School in 2013. She is the former Andrew W. Mellon

Professor of African American Religion and Theology at Yale University Divinity School and in the fall of 2005, she was the first African American woman elected to the presidential line of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and served as president in 2008. She was the first African American and first woman to serve as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the Yale Divinity School. She is the former Carolyn Williams Beard Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Social Ethics at Saint Paul School of Theology. Editor of two collection of essays, *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering and Embracing the Spirit: Womanist Perspectives on Hope, Salvation, and Transformation*; she has also authored *Womanist Ethics*, *Womanist Hope*, *In a Blaze of Glory: Womanist Spirituality as Social Witness*, *Breaking the Fine Rain of Death: African American Health Issues and a Womanist Ethic of Care*, and her groundbreaking book, *Womanist Ethics and the Cultural Production of Evil*. She is co-editor with Stephanie Y. Mitchem of the *Faith, Health, and Healing in African American Life*. Her most recent co-editorship is *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader* done with the late Katie Geneva Cannon and Angela Sims was published in November 2011. Townes was elected a Fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009. She served a four-year term as president of the Society for the Study of Black Religion from 2012 to 2016.



HOWARD GOSPEL CHOIR | Founded in the fall of 1968 by Melanie Russell (Lee) and Rosalind Thompkins (Lynch), the Howard Gospel Choir (HGC) is the first collegiate choir of its kind in the world. As a result, HGC has pioneered an international legacy in gospel music ministry. With an active roster of seventy-plus persons that consists of students and alumni from Howard University, as well as

others from the surrounding community, the choir is one of the largest religious life organizations on campus, operating under the historic Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel. The Dean of the Chapel, the Reverend Dr. Bernard Richardson serves as the choir's advisor.

In addition to distinguished professionals in every imaginable discipline, past members of this award-winning ensemble include Grammy Award© winners Richard Smallwood, Coré Cotton (member of Sounds of Blackness), and Elberita "Twinkie" Clark of the legendary Clark Sisters, as well as R&B star Ángela Winbush. Exceptional musicians have always been instrumental in shaping HGC's unique sound to embrace both contemporary and traditional gospel, church hymns, Negro spirituals and classically arranged anthems. For twenty-five years, the late Arphelius Paul Gatling, III served as the Musical Director. He is largely responsible for crafting the unique sound of the choir.

For almost five decades, the Howard Gospel Choir has set a very high standard as a premier performing arts ensemble, singing at a wide variety of venues in and around the Greater Washington, DC Metropolitan Area including: The White House, the Capitol Building, DAR Constitution Hall, Washington National Cathedral, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Most recently, HGC was one of the featured artists to perform for both the 2016 and the 2017 Kennedy Center Honors, and was also as a part of ABC Television's Emmy Award winning special Taking the Stage which celebrated the grand opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. The choir has also been blessed to receive both national exposure, having appeared from coast to coast within the continental United States, and international exposure, having served as cultural ambassadors to more than twenty countries throughout Europe and the Americas. In addition to headlining numerous high-profile concerts in a variety of venues, they have participated in other cultural exchange activities and have conducted master classes discussing various vocal exercises and the history of Gospel Music.

In 2016, the choir released their latest full-length album entitled Glorious God (available online at www.howardgospelchoir.com/GloriousGod and on all digital platforms). The CD is a diverse collective of musical offerings that reflect their musical legacy. In addition to remaining on the Top 30 Charts for national sales and radio airplay in Gospel music for more than ten weeks, this critically acclaimed album was nominated for two 2017 Stellar Awards, four Rhythm of Gospel Awards and a Steeple Award.

From the outset, the Howard Gospel Choir has been in constant demand, and has been blessed to share the stage with a number of musical luminaries including Barry Manilow, Tony Bennett, Stevie Wonder, Fantasia, and Patti LaBelle. Additionally, HGC has performed at functions that have featured prominent political, religious and public figures such as President Barack Hussein Obama, Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.

Notwithstanding the legacy of excellence and the vast accomplishments since its inception, the main objective remains the same: to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through song. Our purpose and passion is to serve Christ with our musical gifts bringing peace, restoration, healing and inspiration to all who will lend their ears and hearts.

The choir is currently under the musical direction of Reginald Golden, a Howard University graduate from University Heights, OH. Darrell Brown, also a Howard University alumnus, is the assistant director.



ITIHARI TOURE, ED.D. currently works with the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia as faculty in the Master of Arts Religion and Education degree program and Director of the Sankofa Center for Data Evaluation and Quality Enhancement (QEP). As Director of the Sankofa Center, Dr. Toure is the institutional effectiveness and accreditation liaison officer for the ITC. She is owner and lead consultant of the Sankofa Center for Strategic Planning and Evaluation currently

developing curricula and evaluation for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (SDPC) Inc. based in Chicago. Itihari Y. Toure has worked in the field of education, the Black church, and with Black women in ministry since 1975. As an African centered educator, Itihari Toure served as the program coordinator for Black Women Ministerial Leadership program (BWML) for the Office of Black Women in Church and Society founded by Dr. Jacquelyn Grant, a grants writer for several funded programs including: the Womanist Scholars program at the ITC. Her tenure as religious education director at First African Presbyterian church in Lithonia, Georgia, resulted in the CFABS curriculum which included Ancestral Walks, Per Ankh House of Life Series, and the CARE Youth Apprenticeship. Her recent efforts launched “The Souls of Black Girls” an education and action platform for netweaving existing advocates, agencies and organizations addressing the intersecting realities facing Black girls and Women.



KEISHA B. NELSON | At the heart of youth development and creativity emerges a true, modern-day Renaissance woman. Keisha B. Nelson is a life-long educator, wife, and mother who seeks to explore ways to support communities with each gift she possesses. Keisha earned a B.S in Human Development and Psychoeducational Studies from Howard University in 2009, and later earned a Master's in Education in Reading, Writing, and Literacy at the University of Pennsylvania.

Her career as an educator includes teaching, youth development, and student support services. In those capacities, she developed programming, provided college and career counseling, and advocated for students of color in communities and school districts. She also worked as a full time entrepreneur and educational artist as co-owner of Black Broadway Performing Arts Company in DC. Black Broadway is an educational performing arts program that utilizes theater and music arts to teach history and strengthen literacy skills. Keisha's pivot to a full-time boss mom in 2017 inspired her to study Women's Entrepreneurship, and she later earned a certificate from Cornell University in 2019.

Although Keisha expressed her passion for performing arts at a young age, it was during her graduate studies when she wrote her first theatrical production, *The Evolution*. She has since written, directed, and produced a total of 7 original musicals featured in the Philadelphia Metropolitan area. Keisha's productions have been attended by numerous audience members, acknowledged by several newspapers, and was recognized by Tony and Grammy Award Nominee, Valisia LeKae (*Motown The Musical*). Keisha is both entertaining and meaningful, and she strives to serve her audiences with quality artwork.

Above all, Keisha's anchor passion is service. Keisha consistently explores ways to support communities. She uses creative ideas to provide resources to families by sharing #teachermommy hacks and by using her creativity and business savvy to build businesses, brands, and ideas by supporting startups, organizations, and events. She is committed to empowering families to not only coexist but thrive together through her newest brand, *And Me Tribe*. *And Me* provides educational resources, fun activities, and unique shopping experiences for youth to make memories with their favorite adults.

Keisha is most proud of her roles as wife and mother to her children, Cleveland, IV, & Kamari Nadine. Keisha looks forward to a bright future as she follows her dreams and pursues her passion in service.



THE REVEREND KYNDRA FRAZIER is an ordained Baptist clergywoman, licensed clinician, and the Founder and CEO of KYND (Knowing Yourself In Need of Devotion) Consulting, Inc. KYND offers trauma-informed care through a variety of services from clinical therapy for individuals, families, and couples to trauma-informed training for corporate entities and ecclesial communities, as well as spiritual direction. These services are centered in evidenced-based interventions such as mindfulness,

motivational interviewing, CBT, and IPT. KYND also offers Executive Listening sessions for organizations. Kyndra was most recently the Founding Executive Director of The HOPE Center, a free mental health facility located in Central Harlem of NYC, and formally served as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Care and Wellness at First Corinthian Baptist Church. Known for her work in removing barriers to mental health access for communities of color. She was recently featured on the 2020 Root 100 list of Most Influential African Americans. She has also been featured in multiple print and digital publications including Vice Magazine, New York Times, and Sojourners Magazine. She holds a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology|Emory University, a Master of Social Work from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from North Carolina A&T State University.



THE REVEREND LAKEESHA WALROND, PH.D. | Educator, visionary leader, sought after speaker, and consummate change agent, Dr. LaKeesha Walrond is a force faithfully encouraging those she encounters to embody their infinite possibilities. In June of 2019, she became as the first woman and first African American woman President of New York Theological Seminary, she is committed to preparing faith and thought leaders to engage relevant, restorative, and revolutionary ministry.

A native Texan, Dr. Walrond earned her undergraduate degree from Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga., a Master of Education, Master in School Administration, and Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York, NY. Dr. Walrond has a passion for children and education. She worked in the public-school system in North Carolina for eleven years as a teacher, a coordinator for special education programs, an assistant principal, and as a principal.

Dr. Walrond is a dynamic speaker who has addressed a number of national and international audiences. She has received numerous recognitions including honors by the New York Liberty WNBA Basketball Association, the National Action Network, the MC Donald's GospelFest, NCNW, NAACP, her alma mater, Spelman College and Union Theological Seminary. She served on the board of trustees at Union Theological Seminary for three years. Mayor Bill DeBlasio of NYC named October 26, 2019, "Rev. LaKeesha Walrond Day" in the city of New York.

Dr. Walrond answered her call to the ministry in December 1995 and has fully embraced the calling God placed on her life. She began her ministry journey serving as an Associate Minister

at Zion Temple United Church of Christ in North Carolina for 6 years. She served as the Executive Pastor and Chief of Staff of First Corinthian Baptist Church (FCBC) in Harlem, NY for thirteen years. As Chief of Staff, she used educational and organizational strategies to maximize FCBC's capacity and influence in the community and abroad. As Executive Pastor, she implemented strategies to create a culture of learning which evolved into a community of learners.

Dr. Walrond launched the Getting to Greatness Women's Conference (G2G) in 2013. G2G holds conferences, retreats, workshops, and panel discussions promoting women's empowerment, leadership development, spiritual, mental and psychological wellness. The G2G conferences have been held in New York, Florida, South Carolina, Canada, the Bahamas, Arizona and Washington, DC. She is the author of two books. *My Body is Special* (2017) is the first of her six-part "Let's Talk About It" (LTAI) children's book series. Written to help end sexual violence against children, this book provides parents, children, and child advocates with problem solving tools to prevent unhealthy touching. Her first e-book, *Stronger Than Your Worst Pain: A Spiritual Guide to Activating Your Inner Power* (2018), empowers women to recognize their passion, power and potential to overcome life's most difficult challenges.

Dr. Walrond is happily married to The Reverend Michael A. Walrond Jr. and they are blessed to be the proud parents of two beautiful children: Michael III, and Jasmyn Dominique.



DR. LERHONDA S. MANIGAULT-BRYANT is Professor of Africana Studies at Williams College and founder of ConjureGirlBlue Productions. A proud native of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, Rhon navigates the academy as a scholar-artist, where she merges her life as a thinker, musician and filmmaker. She is the author of multiple academic books, public-facing writing, and films including *Talking to the Dead: Religion, Music, and Lived Memory among Gullah/Geechee Women* (2014) and the award-winning documentary short "*death. everything. nothing*" (2020).



THE REVEREND MELANIE C. JONES is a womanist ethicist, millennial preacher, and intellectual activist. Melanie joined the Union Presbyterian Seminary faculty as Instructor of Ethics, Theology, and Culture and Inaugural Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership in fall 2019. Formerly, Melanie served as the first Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, and Lecturer at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX, American Baptist College in Nashville, TN, Chicago Theological Seminary, and The Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL.

Melanie is a thinking woman of faith embodying radical love and revolutionary justice in the academy, Church, and global community. Melanie earned a B.A. in Economics and Political

Science from Howard University and a Master of Divinity with a certificate in Black Church Studies from Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Currently, Melanie is completing a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Chicago Theological Seminary. Melanie's research engages womanist theological ethics and sacred texts, millennials and faith, Black aesthetics and digital technocultures. For her distinguished research, Melanie has received notable fellowships and scholarships, including The Forum for Theological Exploration, The Louisville Institute, Wabash Center, Villanova University Center for Church Management, and The Henry Luce Foundation.

Committed to enlivening a world where Black women and girls are whole and free, Melanie serves professional societies and international boards as a global leader in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (former International Second Vice President 2008–2010), Black Religious Scholars Group, and Daughters of the African Atlantic Fund. Melanie is Co-Founder of The Millennial Womanism Project (TMWP) and Co-host of The Womanist Salon (TWS) podcast—an intergenerational, woke, womanist podcast that integrates the hair salon as site, source, and sanctuary for authentic Black sisterhood.

Melanie is the youngest ordained woman minister at South Suburban Missionary Baptist Church, under the leadership of her beloved mother, Pastor Annette Jones. A third-generation ordained Baptist preacher and sought-after lecturer, Melanie is an emerging millennial voice with noted academic and popular publications as well as features on television, radio, and news outlets. Follow Melanie at www.revmelanie.com and @revmelaniej on social media.



THE REVEREND DR. MELVA L. SAMPSON is Assistant Professor of Preaching and Practical Theology at Wake Forest University School of Divinity. She is a digital hush harbor curator, ritualist and preacher. Her research interests include Black preaching women's embodiment, African heritage spiritual traditions, Black girls' ritual performance, and the relationship between digital proclamation and spiritual formation. She has published articles like, "The Making of Digital Griots and Cyber Assemblies,"

and "Digital Hush Harbors: Black Preaching Women and Black Digital Religious Networks," each address the politics of location and challenge traditional Black Church pulpit authority. She is the creator of Pink Robe Chronicles™ a digital hush harbor that centers faith and spirituality using the womanist and Afrocentric values of self-determination, serious engagement, and liberating self-love to highlight the importance of collective work and responsibility in healing and sustaining marginalized communities. She is currently working on her first book length project entitled *Going Live: Black Women Preaching in the Digital Age*.



DR. MEREDITH COLEMAN-TOBIAS is Assistant Professor of Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in the Americas at Mount Holyoke College. She specializes in Caribbean and North American iterations of African Atlantic religious cultures. She is specifically interested in contemporary religious migrations, which she began to study during her tenure as a Fulbright fellow in Barbados (2009-2010). Her research focuses on the ritual diaspora of two Burkinabé spiritual leaders. Investigating their “reverse mission” in

Western countries, she interrogates African and non-African descendants’ intentional practice of Dagara spirituality in North America and the Caribbean. She brings to her research a background in community theater, and interrogations of performance, place-making and knowledge reproduction significantly inform her understanding of religious communities. Meredith earned her B.A. from Spelman College in 2006, M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 2009, and Ph.D. from Emory University in 2017.



THE REVEREND MIA J. MCCLAIN is an artist, pastor and king cake lover. She currently serves as the Associate Minister of Faith Formation and Community Outreach at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she works to create and sustain a vibrant adult small group ministry, Sunday morning classes, and educational conferences, as well as coordinating and facilitating justice initiatives and community partnerships. Originally from New Orleans, Mia went on to obtain a Bachelor of Fine Arts

in Musical Theatre from Syracuse University, a Master of Arts in Art and Public Policy from New York University—Tisch School of the Arts, and a Master of Divinity, with concentration in Psychology, Religion, and Homiletics from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. At Union, she was 2018 recipient of the Jonathan Kneeland Preaching Fellowship—awarded by Auburn Seminary—and the 2019 recipient of the Karen Ziegler Feminist Preaching Prize. This year, she is the recipient of the Duke Divinity Innovation Grant that will enable research and production around decolonizing liturgical practice and space. A licensed Baptist minister, Mia is ordained in the United Church of Christ and will serve as a liturgist and songwriter at the UCC’s 2021 General Synod this summer. Prior to her call to ministry, Mia lived into her arts career fully, performing in theatres across the country, composing and executive producing projects, such as the Voice of Peace EP (’12). When Mia is not working, she enjoys cooking, taste-testing banana pudding, and being a dog-mom to Harry.



THE REVEREND NAOMI WASHINGTON-LEAPHEART is the Director for Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs for the city of Philadelphia. In this role, she serves as a public facing leader, liaison, and subject matter expert for the Mayor’s Office on local and national matters that impact communities of faith. She manages the Mayor’s Commission on Faith-Based and Interfaith Affairs. Naomi is also an adjunct professor of Theology and Religious Studies

at Villanova University, with joint affiliations with the University's Center for Peace and Justice Education and Africana Studies program. She also directs the Villanova Gospel Choir. In 2019, Naomi received the Pohlhaus-Stracciolini Award for Teaching Excellence, which recognizes an adjunct faculty member at Villanova who demonstrates a commitment to the life of the mind and to the well-being of students through teaching that is intellectually stimulating, challenging, and accessible, with efforts extending beyond the classroom.

Prior to working in city government, Naomi was the Faith Work Director for the National LGBTQ Task Force, the country's oldest national LGBTQ justice and equality group. In that role, she coordinated the Task Force's public faith messaging and advocacy and leadership development work in faith communities.

Before joining the Task Force, Naomi was a faith organizer for POWER Interfaith, a multi-faith, multi-racial network of congregations in Southeastern and Central Pennsylvania. She also served as Co-Pastor and Minister of Music at the Wisdom's Table at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. An ordained minister, she earned the Master of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2016 and is proudly affiliated with the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries.

Naomi delights in singing with the Philadelphia Threshold Singers, an all-volunteer choir whose mission is to bring audible comfort and kindness to the bedsides of people living in hospice care. Since 2016, she has been a member of the Faith and Spiritual Affairs Advisory Board of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services. From 2017 to 2019, she served as a mayoral appointee to the city's Commission on LGBT Affairs. Naomi is currently a member of the board of directors of SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, an organization that has served as the national voice for sex education for more than 50 years.

Naomi's work is included in the volume, *From Generation to Generation: A Commemorative Collection of African American Millennial Sermons from the Festival of Preachers 2010-2015* (Chalice Press, 2015). Her writing can be seen on Medium, Religion Dispatches, and Rewire. News. Naomi is a trainer for the Bridging Divides program at Auburn Seminary, and she regularly preaches and teaches in diverse congregations, national conferences, and religious and academic institutions around the country, including Vanderbilt University School of Divinity, Swarthmore College, Ithaca College, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Chicago Theological Seminary, the American Academy of Religion, the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the International Council of Community Churches.

In 2019, Naomi was named one of 9 LGBTQ Faith Leaders to Watch by the Center for American Progress and was included in The Root 100, an annual list of the nation's most influential African-Americans, ages 25-45.

Naomi shares her life with her wife and their curious, energetic, future-Oscar-winning teenager.



DR. MONICA A. COLEMAN is Professor of Africana Studies at the University of Delaware. She spent over ten years in graduate theological education at Claremont School of Theology and Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Answering her call to ministry at age 19, Dr. Coleman brings her experiences in evangelical Christianity, black church traditions, global ecumenical work, and indigenous spirituality to her discussions of religion.

Dr. Coleman is the author or editor of six books and several articles that focus on the role of faith in addressing critical social and philosophical issues. Her memoir *Bipolar Faith* shares her life-long dance with trauma and depression, and how she discovers a new and liberating vision of God. Her book *Making a Way Out of No Way* is required reading at leading theological schools around the country.

Dr. Coleman speaks widely on navigating change, religious diversity, mental wellness, and surviving sexual and domestic violence.



DR. MONIQUE MOULTRIE is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University and was recently a Visiting Associate Professor of Women's Studies and African American Religion at Harvard Divinity School. She earned degrees from Vanderbilt University, Harvard Divinity School, and Duke University. Her scholarly pursuits include projects in sexual ethics, African American religions, and gender and sexuality studies. Her book *Passionate and Pious: Religious Media and Black Women's Sexuality*

was published by Duke University Press and was the 2018 Book of the Year for the Religious Communication Association. She has published extensively in journals and edited volumes, and her forthcoming research is a study of black lesbian religious leadership and faith activism. Her research has been supported by Harvard Divinity School's Women's Studies in Religion Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Grants, a GSU Dean's Early Career Award, and an American Academy of Religion Individual Research Grant.

Outside of the university, D. Moultrie was a consultant for the National Institutes of Health and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender-Religious Archives Network. She was a Content Development working group member for the Columbia University's Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics, and Social Justice and the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice's Scholars Group, a group of religious scholars collaborating at the intersection of religion and reproductive justice. Within the larger American Academy of Religion guild, Dr. Moultrie is the former Status of Women in the Profession Chair and a former co-chair of the Religion and Sexuality unit.



DEAN NEICHELE R. GUIDRY is a spiritual daughter of New Creation Christian Fellowship of San Antonio, Texas, where the Bishop David Michael Copeland and the Rev. Dr. Claudette Anderson Copeland are her pastors and where she was ordained to ministry in 2010. She is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University (2007, BA, Lambda Pi Eta) and Yale Divinity School (2010, M.Div.), where she was the 2010 recipient of the Walcott Prize for Clear and Effective Public and Pulpit Speaking. She is also a graduate of Garrett-

Evangelical Theological Seminary (2017), where she completed her Doctor of Philosophy in the area of Liturgical Studies with a concentration in Homiletics. Her dissertation is entitled, "Towards a Womanist Homiletical Theology for Subverting Rape Culture." She currently serves as the Dean of the Chapel and the Director of the WISDOM Center at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is the creator of shepreaches, a virtual community and professional development organization that aspires to uplift African-American millennial women in ministry through theological reflection, fellowship, and liturgical curation. She is the visionary voice behind the Modern Faith Podcast for Black millennial woman of faith. For six years, she served as the Associate Pastor to Young Adults and the Liaison to Worship and Arts Ministries in the Office of the Senior Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ on the South side of Chicago, where the Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III is the Senior Pastor. She served as the 2016 Preacher/Pastor-In-Residence at the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary. She was listed as one of "12 New Faces of Black Leadership" in TIME Magazine (January 2015). She was recognized for "quickly becoming one of her generation's most powerful female faith leaders" on Ebony Magazine's 2015 Power 100 list (December 2015), and one of "Ten Women of Faith Leading the Charge Ahead" by Sojourners (March 2017). Additionally, Rev. Dr. Neichelle and the work of shepreaches were featured in the New York Times (April 3, 2015). She is a contributor to *What Would Jesus Ask?: Christian Leaders Reflect on His Questions of Faith* (Time Books, 2015), and the author of *Curating a World: Sermonic Words from a Young Woman Who Preaches* (self-published, June 2016). She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



NILA CURRY is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary with Master of Divinity and Master of Theological Studies degrees. Nila is a minister, storyteller, and curator of sacred spaces at Emory Fellowship UMC (Washington, D.C.) and The Open Church of MD (Baltimore, MD). She is currently discerning Ph.D. work and is interested in the parallels between womanist trajectories, prophetic imagination, and the Black-speculative Arts. Nila is a Miami native who enjoys traveling, community storytelling, and creative writing.

She is also the founder of TribePurple LLC, a womanist initiative for healing and transformation.



PAM SMITH is a historian and coordinator of the Micah Initiative -- faith communities in partnership with Richmond Public Schools -- at Richmond Hill. Before joining the residential community in 2019, she worked for 12 years as a planning and research consultant for nonprofit organizations in her home town of Chicago. She is a certified trainer in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s approach to nonviolent conflict reconciliation.

Earlier in her career, Pam served as press liaison for Barack Obama and Rev. Jesse Jackson. She has taught elementary school in Africa, history at community colleges, and served as research consultant at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest Plantation located in Bedford County, Virginia. Pam has used her genealogical skills to trace many of her own enslaved ancestors in Virginia and elsewhere. She is now leading an initiative at Richmond Hill to unearth buried stories associated with people formerly enslaved on the property.



PAMELA AYO YETUNDE, J.D., TH.D. is the co-editor of *Black and Buddhist: What Buddhism Can Teach Us About Race, Resilience, Transformation and Freedom* (Shambhala Publications, 2020), *Buddhist-Christian Dialogue, U.S. Law, and Womanist Theology for Transgender Spiritual Care* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), and *Object Relations, Buddhism, and Relationality in Womanist Practical Theology* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), and "Black Lesbians to the Rescue! A Brief Correction with Implications for

Womanist Christian Theology and Womanist Buddhology" (religions, 2017). Ayo, a Community Dharma Leader, is the co-founder of Center of the Heart (www.centeroftheheart.org) and founder of Audre: Spiritual Care for Women with Cancer. Ayo also works as a pastoral counselor and chaplain.



THE REVEREND DR. PAMELA LIGHTSEY has a stellar history as a senior administrator and scholar in higher education. She currently serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Meadville Lombard Theological School and Associate Professor of Constructive Theology. Before her appointment at Meadville, she was Associate Dean at Boston University School of Theology. She is also an ordained elder in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Lightsey is a womanist theologian who has lectured at schools within and outside the continental United States. She has served as co-chair of the American Academy of Religion's Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group. She is currently a member of the Workgroup on Constructive Theology. Dr. Lightsey is an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army. She served as a member of the original executive committee for the Soul Repair Project, which studies the role of moral injury in military veterans.

As an activist, Dr. Lightsey has worked within the LGBTQ community to end Don't Ask, Don't Tell military policy, and to ensure marriage equality. She continues to critique churches for homophobic polity, liturgy, and homiletics. Pamela was on the ground protesting against excessive police force during the first 21 days of unrest in Ferguson and across one year was one of several livestreamers providing ongoing broadcasts. Her work is the largest video archive on this historic time captured live by a solo African American theologian in the country. Dr. Lightsey has consistently collaborated with activist colleagues in the movement for the liberation of Black lives, those addressing violence against Black transwomen, and institutional racism on college campuses. She currently serves as a member of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Advisory Council on LGBTQ+ issues.

As ordained clergy, Rev. Dr. Lightsey is among the leading voices fighting for LGBTQ rights in the United Methodist Church. She was the first out queer lesbian African American ordained elder in full connection in the denomination. As United Methodism faces schism, Rev. Dr. Lightsey - understanding the subtle work of racism in times of crisis - is coordinating with other LGBTQ persons of color to ensure their lives are not made subordinate to the needs of white LGBTQ persons.

Pamela's several publications include the full manuscript, *"Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology"* (Wipf and Stock, 2015), *Transforming Service: Reflections of Student Services Professionals in Theological Education*. Editors Shonda R. Jones & Pamela R. Lightsey. (Wipf and Stock, 2020). "He Is Black and We are Queer" in *Albert Cleage Jr and the Black Madonna and Child* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), "Blinking Red: The Escalation of a Militarized Police Force and Its Challenges to Black Communities" (Lexington Books, 2019).



THE REVEREND DR. PAULA OWENS PARKER is the program associate for The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership and also the senior program developer of Roots Matter LLC, a program which identifies approaches to healing generational trauma in families and communities. Dr. Parker is the developer of RAPHA: A Course in Contemplative Healing Prayer, a spiritual director, and a certified facilitator of Emotional Emancipation Circles (EEC) of Community Healing Network. Dr. Parker is

the author of *Roots Matter: Healing History, Honoring Heritage, Renewing Hope* (2016) which recognizes the impact of transgenerational trauma, as a result of chattel slavery, on the African American community. She has contributed articles to *Healing Line*, *Christian Century* and *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* and co-authored the chapter "Internal Liberation" in *Kaleidoscope: Broadening the Palette in the Art of Spiritual Direction* (2019).



DR. RACHEL ELIZABETH HARDING is a poet, historian, and scholar of religions of the Afro-Atlantic diaspora. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Harding teaches in the Ethnic Studies department of the University of Colorado Denver and writes about religion, creativity, and social justice in the experience of people of African descent in the US and Brazil. Dr. Harding is author of two books: *A Refuge in Thunder*, a history of the Afro-Brazilian religion, Candomblé; and *Remnants: A Memoir of Spirit, Activism and*

Mothering, co-written with her mother, Rosemarie Freeney Harding, on the role of compassion and mysticism in African American social justice organizing.

Dr. Harding is an ebômi (ritual elder) in the Terreiro do Cobre Candomblé community in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. And she co-directs the Veterans of Hope Project – an interdisciplinary initiative on religion, grassroots democracy and healing, founded by her parents, Vincent and Rosemarie Freeney Harding. (www.veteransofhope.org)

Harding's honors include a Cave Canem Fellowship, the Sterling Brown Distinguished Visiting Professorship at Williams College and an honorary doctorate from the Starr-King School for the Ministry.



THE REVEREND DR. RENITA J. WEEMS is a biblical scholar, a minister, and an author whose scholarly insights into modern faith, biblical texts, and the role of spirituality in everyday lives has made her a highly sought-after writer and speaker for more than four decades. She has numerous books, commentaries and articles on the Bible and prophetic religion to her credit. Among these are *“Just A Sister Away”* and her award winning, *“Listening for God: A Minister’s Journey Through Silence and Doubt”*

(Simon & Schuster), which won the Religious Communicators’ Council’s prestigious Wilbur Award for “excellence in communicating spiritual values to the secular media”.

After earning her M.Div. from Princeton Seminary in 1983 and a year later being ordained an elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, she earned a Ph.D. degree at Princeton Seminary in 1989 making her the first African American woman to earn a doctorate in Old Testament Studies. Her distinguished career as professor, administrator, clergywoman, and author continues to offer encouragement and empowerment to women and men of all backgrounds, but especially to women of color.

Dr. Weems’s dissertation was a trailblazing effort. Writing in an era when women doctoral students hesitated to take on “women’s issue” topics, and when most male faculty still felt uncertain, if not uncomfortable, advising such topics, Dr. Weems chose to study marriage imagery in the Hebrew prophets. Her work offered careful, challenging, and often painful insights into use of this metaphor; moving beyond traditional scholarship, which had all too easily looked only at the “love” side of the marriage metaphor. Weems was among the first

to point to the violence associated with this biblical imagery, violence acceptable within the prophets' cultural assumptions about marriage and all too often considered acceptable even in twentieth-century America. Her 1995 volume *Battered Love: Marriage, Sex, and Violence in the Hebrew Prophets* brought this important work to a wide audience, with powerful hermeneutical reflection on implications for contemporary understandings of God and of marriage. *Just A Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible*, published in 1989 along with a host of other articles and books highlighting the ways black women read the bible has sealed her legacy as trailblazer in the field of womanist biblical scholar.

Dr. Weems taught in the Divinity School at Vanderbilt University from 1987-2004. She has served as the William and Camille Cosby Visiting Professor of Humanities at Spelman College, and Vice President of Academic Affairs at American Baptist College in Nashville. In 2008, Dr. Weems became the first African American woman to deliver the Yale University Lyman Beecher Lecture.

These days Dr. Weems is enjoying semi-retirement. Even though semi-retirement often doesn't feel semi nor, to any degree, like a retirement when one considers that her time is divided between assisting her husband, Rev. Martin Espinosa, in ministry at the Ray of Hope Community Church in Nashville, and juggling various writing projects, such as a memoir, a commentary, blogging for online publications, writing bible study lessons for Christian publication and haranguing with others on Twitter about the news of the day. She is happy to report that quilting and riding her bicycle are two favorite past times that give her reprieve from the demands of ministry, academia, and writing.



RUBY NELL SALES answered the call to social justice as a teenager at Tuskegee Institute where she joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and worked on voter registration in Lowndes County, Alabama.

Sales received a B.A. degree from Manhattanville College and attended graduate school at Princeton University. Sales received a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School where she was an Absalom Jones Scholar. While there, she developed a reputation as a preacher and has preached at churches and cathedrals around the nation. After divinity school, she founded a national nonprofit organization, the SpiritHouse Project.

Sales' work is cited in several books, journal articles and film. Sales has received numerous awards and honors. She was selected and honored as a *Veteran of Hope* by Vincent G. Harding in 2004. Sales was one of the founders of SAGE Magazine: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women. Sales became a national *HistoryMaker* in 2009. In August 2013, Sales was awarded the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference *Living Legacies Civil Rights Recognition Award*. In 2014, she was

inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and became a recipient of the *Beautiful Are Their Feet Award* from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference. Sales was honored with the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award from the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) at their centennial celebration in 2015.

An oral history of Sales is housed at the Library of Congress, and she was selected as one of fifty African Americans from the Civil Rights Movement to be spotlighted in the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. Sales was also one of the honorees of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) spotlighted at the opening of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration in Montgomery, Alabama. In February 2019, TED.com released Sales' TED Talk entitled, "How we can start to heal the pain of racial division."

Sales has made the struggle for racial justice one of the centerpieces of her work through the SpiritHouse Project. Since 2007, she has worked to expose the state sanctioned deaths of African Americans by White police, security guards and vigilantes by compiling a national database on these events; offering spiritual, financial and organizational support to families; and by exposing these activities through church and community meetings, forums, and press conferences around the nation.

In 2016 the SpiritHouse Project introduced Hope Zones,TM sanctuary sites of learning, intergenerational connection and community formation which offer diverse communities an opportunity to work toward the common goal of advancing democracy and non-violence.

Funded by the Duke Endowment, she is currently creating Racial Justice Cafes in North and South Carolina. Sales continues to teach and preach at colleges, universities, churches, and cathedrals around the United States.



DR. PATRICIA HILL COLLINS is an active American sociologist known for her research and theory that sits at the intersection of race, gender, class, sexuality, and nationality. She served in 2009 as the 100th president of the American Sociological Association (ASA) — the first African American woman elected to this position. Collins is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Jessie Bernard Award, given by the ASA for her first and groundbreaking book, published in 1990, "Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Power of Empowerment"; the C. Wright Mills Award given by the Society for the Study of Social Problems, also for her first book; and, was lauded with the Distinguished Publication Award of the ASA in 2007 for another widely read and taught, theoretically innovative book, "Black Sexual Politics: African Americans, Gender, and the New Racism."

Marrying the sociology of knowledge with her concept of intersectionality, Collins is also well known for asserting the importance of marginalized forms of knowledge, and counter-

narratives that challenge mainstream ideological framing of people on the basis of race, class, gender, sexuality, and nationality. Her work thus celebrates the perspectives of Black women — mostly written out of Western history — and is centered on the feminist principle of trusting people to be experts on their own experience. Her scholarship has thus been influential as a tool for validating the perspectives of women, the poor, people of color, and other marginalized groups, and has served as a call to action for oppressed communities to unite their efforts to achieve social change.



DR. STACEY FLOYD-THOMAS, Dr. Cannon's first graduate student, is an extension of the expansive KGCCWL community where she serves as a member of its advisory board. She is a Texas native, Nashville-based scholar, author, public speaker, EDI trainer, management consultant, religious leader, and executive coach. Dr. Floyd-Thomas is currently the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Chair and Associate Professor of Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt University. As the womanist methods generator and award

winning teacher, she is a nationally recognized scholar and leading voice in social ethics who provides leadership to several national and international organizations that educate, advocate, support and shape the strategic work of individuals, initiatives, and institutions in their organizing efforts of championing and cultivating equity, diversity, and inclusion via organizations such as the Black Religious Scholars Group (BRSBG), Society for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Religion (SRRER), Strategic Effective Ethical Solutions (SEES), Society of Christian Ethics (SCE) and the American Academy of Religion (AAR). She holds a PhD in Ethics, a MBA in organizational behavior and two Masters in Comparative religion and Theological Studies with certification in women's studies, cultural studies, and counseling. Not only has she published eight books and numerous articles including *Mining the Motherlode: Methods in Womanist Ethics* and *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanism in Religion and Society*, she is also as an expert in leadership development and organizational behavior who educates clergy and religious organizations in financial literacy and not-for-profit business ethics. As a result, Dr. Floyd-Thomas has been a lead architect in helping corporations, colleges, universities, religious congregations, and community organizations with their audit, assessment, and action plans in accordance with evolving both the mission and strategic plans. Without question, she is one of the nation's leading voices in ethical leadership in the United States and is globally recognized for her scholarly specializations in liberation theology and ethics, critical race theory, critical pedagogy, and postcolonial studies. Additionally, leaving the podium and pulpit and living her womanist ways out loud, Dr. Floyd-Thomas co-hosts her own podcast to popularize and make her profession and vocation intergenerationally and intracommunally accessible through The Womanist Salon Podcast.



THE REVEREND DR. STEPHANIE CRUMPTON is a scholar, teacher and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She is the tenured Associate Professor of Practical Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary. There she teaches introductory level courses on pastoral care and religious education, and elective courses on pastoral theological method for justice work, womanist/feminist pastoral care and counseling, and the role of African cosmology and ritual in pastoral care. Rev. Dr.

Crumpton is also a yoga instructor. She enjoys holding healing space for activists, organizers and socially engaged folks to support integration of the mind, body and spirit.



STEPHANIE YOUNGER is an 18-year-old student who created Black Feminist Collective and fights for a world abolished of prisons, policing and systems of policing, and is passionate about its intersections with womanism. On May 5th, 2017, Black Feminist Collective was born when she wrote & published an article spotlighting Black girls, Black women and Black non-binary people. The Black Feminist Collective started out as a platform to self-publish Stephanie's writings, but in November 2018, she opened the floor to more Black womanists & Black feminists across generations.

In the summer of 2021, Stephanie climbed up the Robert E. Lee Statue at a protest in Richmond, Virginia, the former Capital of the Confederacy, and read the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's

"Letter from a Birmingham Jail" and delivered a moving speech about the growth of white liberal's co-optation of Black grief and Black radicalism to a multitude of gathered protesters.

According to Stephanie, "In a world where Black people are devalued and erased from our own work by spaces that claim to do the opposite, it's important that we root ourselves in creating our own spaces that center the liberation of all Black lives... Womanism offers a space for Black feminists who have been erased from our own labor."



THE STRING QUEENS | Praised for its "authentic, soulful, and orchestral sound", The String Queens (TSQ) is a dynamic trio that creates stimulating musical experiences that inspire diverse audiences to love, hope, feel, and imagine!

With an array of repertoire spanning from the Baroque era to the Jazz Age to today's Billboard Hot 100 Chart, TSQ performs versatile programs that transport audiences through time and a multitude of musical genres.

Based in Washington, D.C., TSQ members have been featured in famed performance venues across four continents including: Carnegie Hall, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, The Howard Theatre, Royal Festival Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Shanghai Grand Theatre, The Moscow Conservatory, and Blues Alley, to name a few.

TSQ members have collaborated with artists throughout the music industry, including Ledisi, Solange, Leslie Odom Jr., Janelle Monae, Jennifer Hudson, Ariana Grande, Demi Lovato, Common, Andra Day, and the late Aretha Franklin, among others. As chamber and orchestral musicians, TSQ members have performed under the batons of legendary musical directors Ray Chew, Adam Blackstone, and many more.

Recognized by D.C.'s leading news network WUSA9 as "school teachers by day and concert performers by night", they have been honored as the 2020 Aspire Awardees by Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. They also collaborated with Washington Performing Arts to launch a series of concerts and education outreach programs with the organization as their 2019-2020 Ensemble-in-Residence for their signature community engagement initiative titled "Mars Arts D.C."

In late 2019, TSQ premiered their debut album at legendary jazz venue Blues Alley. The album is now available for purchase on the TSQ website and all major digital outlets. They premiered their second album, "Our Favorite Things", in late November 2020.

In January of 2021, the group performed during the We Are One celebration as a part of the official Presidential Inauguration, in a special tribute dedicated to Vice President Kamala Harris.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thestringqueens/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thestringqueens/>



DR. TAMURA LOMAX is the Foundational Associate Professor of African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. She received her Ph.D. in 2011 from Vanderbilt University in Religion, where she specialized in Black Religious History and Black Diaspora Studies, and also developed expertise in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Black British and U.S. Black Cultural Studies. In 2018, Dr. Lomax published *Jezebel Unhinged: Loosing the Black Female Body in Religion and Culture* with

Duke University Press. In addition, she organized and guest edited "Black Bodies in Ecstasy: Black Women, the Black Church, and the Politics of Pleasure," a special issue published with *Black Theology: An International Journal*. In 2014, she published *Womanist and Black Feminist Responses to Tyler Perry's Cultural Productions* with Palgrave Macmillan, a co-authored edited volume with Rhon S. Manigault-Bryant and Carol B. Duncan. And she is currently at work on a new book, *Parenting Against the Patriarchy: Raising Non-Toxic Sons in White Supremacist America* with Duke University Press. However, Dr. Lomax isn't solely a writer and researcher. She's a scholar-activist. In 2017, she co-organized "Our History, Our Future: A Multigenerational Human Rights Conference" at Boston University, which brought together 1960s Civil Rights

and Black Panther Party activists with Black Lives Matter activists. And in 2011, Dr. Lomax co-founded *The Feminist Wire* (TFW), an online publication committed to feminist, anti-racist, and anti-imperialist socio-political critique. Her vision is to create space for justice work through critical conversation, exchange, mass-mediation, and dynamic accessible education. Her hope is to bring academic expertise to the streets and vice versa. Since its founding, *TFW* has published close to 3,000 intersectional and justice centered scholarly essays, including the original *Black Lives Matter herstory* by Alicia Garza in 2014; organized the very first university conference on Black Lives Matter at the University of Arizona; and coordinated various forums on topics such as Black (Academic) Women’s Health; Assata Shakur; Trayvon Martin; Disabilities; Race, Racism, and Anti-Racism within Feminism; and Mumia Abu-Jamal, Race, Gender, and the Carceral State. In addition to online publishing, *TFW* has a book series with the University of Arizona Press: *The Feminist Wire Books: Connecting Feminisms, Race, and Social Justice*.



TANORRIA ASKEW of Tanorria’s Table is a passionate home cook turned Chef. She is the proud owner of Tanorria’s Table where she works as a personal chef and tv personality. Tanorria has a keen sense of flavor and prides herself in making everything she cooks memorable. With her cooking roots originating from Tennessee, Tanorria has fun putting a modern spin on American Comfort Food.

Her culinary credentials are simple. She comes from the “Culinary Institute of Her Parents & Grandparents”. Born in Chattanooga, TN, and raised in Indianapolis, IN, she traveled to be with family a lot. There was never a time where her family came together without an amazing home cooked meal. Growing up her family was always the family who did the entertaining and the cooking. She got to witness, first hand, how food can show love, compassion, unity, and fun. A 2016 contestant on *MasterChef* hosted by Gordon Ramsay, Tanorria walked away as the 4th best home cook in America.

Tanorria was the champion and practitioner for Teachers Credit Union’s (TCU) Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Initiative, leading the charge in winning the Indianapolis Mayor’s Celebration of Diversity Award. She blended her passion for cooking and her passion for D&I to create Unity Tables, a safe space for women of different races, cultures and backgrounds to sit around a dinner table and share their heart as a way to create unity.

Since leaving TCU, Tanorria’s has had the privilege of speaking to audiences as a Keynote speaker, Emcee, and Panelist about her significant career shift, diversity and inclusion, social justice, and the courage it takes to chase dreams.



DR. THELATHIA “NIKKI” YOUNG is associate provost for equity and inclusive excellence and associate professor of women’s and gender studies and religion at Bucknell University. She received her Ph.D. from Emory University, M.Div. and Th.M. from Candler School of Theology, and B.A. from UNC-Asheville. Her research focuses on the intersection of ethics, family, race, gender, and sexuality, and she is interested in the impact of queerness on moral reasoning. In addition to academic and popular

culture articles, Nikki has published three books. The first, a solo-authored monograph, is titled *Black Queer Ethics, Family, and Philosophical Imagination* and was published in 2016. The second, a collaborative project with Drs. Eric Barreto and Jake Myers, titled *In Tongues of Mortals and Angels: A De-Constructive Theology of God-Talk in Acts and Corinthians* and was published in 2018. Nikki’s latest book *Queer Soul and Queer Theology: Ethics and Redemption in Real Life*, written with Dr. Laurel Schneider and published by Routledge, will be available in Spring 2021. Nikki is currently working a new manuscript, tentatively titled *We Plead the Blood of Freedom: A Transnational Ethics of Black Queer Liberative Practice*. Steeped in the storytelling traditions of the South, Nikki’s research about the moral choices and actions of marginalized communities grounds her own hope for and belief in new social possibilities. With a cadre of organizers, scholars, artists, and religious practitioners, and especially in her new role at Bucknell, Nikki aims to redeem and transform the elements of relationships that sustain and deepen wounds born out of lived experiences of injustice and oppression.



DR. THEMA BRYANT-DAVIS is a licensed psychologist, ordained minister, and sacred artist who has worked nationally and globally to provide relief and empowerment to marginalized persons. Dr. Thema, a professor at Pepperdine University, is a past president of the Society for the Psychology of Women. Her contributions to psychological research, policy, and practice have been honored by national and regional psychological associations.

Dr. Thema earned her doctorate from Duke University, completed her post-doctoral training at Harvard Medical Center, and is a past American Psychological Association representative to the United Nations. She is co-editor of the groundbreaking text *Womanist and Mujerista Psychologies*.

She has served as a mental health media consultant for numerous print, radio, and television media outlets, including but not limited to the Huffington Post, NPR, CBS, Oxygen, CNN, BET, TV One, Lifetime, and We TV.



THE REVEREND DR. TRACI WEST is the James W. Pearsall Professor of Christian Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School (NJ). Her teaching, research, and activism have focused on gender, racial, and sexuality justice, particularly related to gender violence. Her major publications include *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality: Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence* (2019),

Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter (2006), and *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics* (1999), and editor, *Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion* (2006).



TANK AND THE BANGAS are a Grammy-nominated, New Orleans-based R&B band fronted by Tarriona Ball (aka Tank), a singer and poet who can wail like Patti LaBelle, scold like Millie Jackson, and soliloquize like Jill Scott. Established with their highly energized live show and a handful of independent releases beginning with *Think Tank* (2013), they won NPR's Tiny Desk Contest in 2017, leading to a major-label contract with Verve that has yielded *Green Balloon* (2019), their second studio album, and *Friend Goals* (2020), an EP.

Capable of shifting from classic soul and funk to hip-hop, reggae, and rock, the instrumental core of Tank and the Bangas consists of musical director and drummer Joshua Johnson, keyboardist Merell Burkett, keyboardist and bassist Norman Spence, and saxophonist and flutist Albert Allenback. Since taking shape in 2011, the Tank and the Bangas have been joined by a cast of supplemental musicians that has included background vocalists Angelika Joseph and Kayla Jasmine. *Think Tank*, the band's debut studio album, was released independently in 2013. It was followed by live recordings of hometown gigs, including *The Big Bang Theory: Live at Gasa Gasa* in 2014, and subsequent documentations of their regular performances at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

In 2017, the band reached a new audience when they prevailed over 6,000 fellow aspiring acts to win NPR's third Tiny Desk Contest. The vote, conducted by a panel of musicians and experts, was unanimous. Tank and the Bangas signed with Verve and made their major-label debut with *Live Vibes* in 2018. *Live Vibes 2* followed in 2019, as did the new studio LP, *Green Balloon*, the latter of which helped to earn the group a Best New Artist nomination at the 2020 Grammy Awards. After a series of intermediary singles, starting with an update of Burt Bacharach and Hal David's "What the World Needs Now Is Love" (with fellow New Orleans native PJ Morton among the nine featured artists), Tank and the Bangas released the *Friend Goals* EP in November 2020.

Tank and The Bangas don't go anywhere quietly. They are a beacon of life. And it's that life that you hear in their music. That's what makes this five-piece one of the most thrilling, unpredictable and sonically diverse bands on the planet; a unit where jazz meets hip-hop, soul meets rock, and funk is the beating heart of everything they do.



REV. DR. YOLANDA PIERCE is Professor and Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, DC. She is the first woman to be appointed as Dean in the Divinity School's 150-year history. In 2016, Pierce served as the Founding Director of the Center for African American Religious Life at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). Previously, she served as the Founding Director of the Center for Black Church Studies and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature

at Princeton Theological Seminary. Pierce holds degrees from Cornell University and Princeton University.

Pierce's research specialties include African American Religious History; Womanist Theology; African American Literature; and Race and Religion. A widely-published author, her work focuses on the historical and contemporary significance of the African American religious tradition. Pierce has written over 50 critical essays and articles in academic and trade journals which consider the relationship between religious faith, race, and gender in the American context. You can find her work in a wide variety of publications, including: *Time Magazine*; *Christian Century*; *Theology Today*; and *Christianity & Literature*.

Pierce is the creator and curator of "Touching the Sacred," an exhibit on material religion and the Black Church. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the Modern Language Association, the American Academy of Religion, and the American Historical Association. Pierce has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Pew Foundation. In 2015, she was honored to be selected as one of The Root 100 Most Influential African Americans.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

OPENING NIGHT

Welcome to the Afrofuture! You could have chosen any place to be. We are grateful that you will join us on a unique virtual experience. From every region across the nation and across the South American borders, you have registered in large numbers virtually. You are first on the program—as we sound off from every region! We begin with a tribute to honor our Founder Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, a short documentary on the formation of The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership, greetings from our KGCCWL Director, Union Presbyterian Seminary President, Dean of the Charlotte campus, and the Cannon Family. As we open the gateway of womanist wisdom, we welcome Keynote Speaker Alicia Garza, #BlackLivesMatter co-founder, to speak on the purpose of power. To close the night, we invite you to enjoy the soulful sounds of the world-renowned Black women musical trio, The String Queens.

PINK ROBE CHRONICLES SPECIAL EDITION

Hush!!! Somebody's Calling Your Name. Founded by Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson, Pink Robe Chronicles™ is a digital hush harbor that centers faith and spirituality using the womanist and Afrocentric values of self-determination, serious engagement, and liberating self-love to highlight the importance of collective work and responsibility in healing and sustaining marginalized communities. This Pink Robe Chronicles Special Edition is connected to Dr. Itihari Toure's Saturday Session on Passages, Portals, and Pathways which illustrates African cosmology as an ontological (the interdependent synergy of humanity & the Divine) and as an epistemological (way of knowing) collective behavior to repair the spiritual breach and/or moral injury so regularly identified through the work of Womanist scholar-activists. Participants will engage in a "Purpling Ritual" to mark the opening of the conference. Please prepare the following items:

- ✦ bowl
- ✦ red food coloring
- ✦ a small glass of water for the red
- ✦ blue food coloring
- ✦ a small glass of water for the blue

MINDFUL MOVEMENT YOGA SESSION

Start the day by setting intentions! This open-level vinyasa flow yoga class opens the body to expansive breathing through mindful movement. Question: Is it wrong to practice yoga if I'm a Christian?!?! Answer: I don't think so. This class is about being mindful of our breath and stretching the body to bring ourselves back to it as our first home. Dr. Stephanie Crumpton stretches us to listen to our bodies and center our minds.

"WOMANIST FUTURES" KEYNOTE LECTURE WITH DR. BARBARA HOLMES

What do you envision for the future of womanism? Leading womanist scholar Dr. Barbara Holmes offers a timely keynote that responds to this inquiry through the lens of Afrofuturism.

VERZUZ: WOMANISM V. FEMINISM PANEL

Womanist v. Black feminist? Must I choose? Are there overlaps, convergences, distinctions, differences? So glad you asked. While the language of "Verzuz" draws on the cultural phenomena of the pairing of musical greats for an engaging virtual experience, when Black women join the platform, they disrupt the battle metaphor giving listeners a view of the beauty of Black meaning-making from diverse bodies of work. Similarly, this panel invites leading scholars to engage the histories, trajectories, critical nuances, and constructive spaces for dialogue and imagination within womanism and Black feminism. You do not want to miss the conference's most-anticipated dialogue between leading womanist and Black feminist scholars who explore pressing questions within these traditions.

EXPO HALL X ARTISAN CAFÉ

Every conference needs an expo hall filled with your favorite vendors and exhibitors. You may not be able to take pictures with a friend in passing, but the virtual expo hall keeps the tradition alive. If you are enjoying your time, please make your way to the virtual exhibit booths, where you will find businesses, organizations, and institutions featuring programmatic offerings as well as goods and products. In case you do not know who to visit first, tune in to the main stage to enjoy close-up interviews with our partners at Artisan Café.

FILMMAKER SPOTLIGHT

Lights. Camera. ACTION. Are you ready for a close-up? Womanist dreamer Nila Curry will facilitate a 101 discussion with award-winning filmmaker and scholar Dr. LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant around womanism, the Black-speculative arts, and sacred cinema. Watch the curated shorts by Conjure Girl Blue before this session.

GATEWAY TO WOMANIST WELLNESS CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Coming Up for Air: Womanist Wellness As An Act of Resistance

Sis, are you breathing yet? There are seasons when you need to do more than take a break. You may need to make a change. It may be time for a life makeover instead of merely decorating the life you have. Let's talk about resisting the urges to make you shrink and reclaiming your power to thrive.

Tilling the Soil, Exposing the Roots: Discovering Our Ancestral Legacies

The parable of the sower teaches us that heavily traveled paths, rocks of resistance, and thorns of doubt are impediments to producing the work our soul must-have. We must unearth buried stories that can snatch, burn or choke the future. This workshop will introduce ways to prepare rich fertile soil to receive seeds of imagination and innovation.

GATEWAY TO WOMANIST WITNESS CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Who Made These Rules? Womanist Leadership as Breaking Barriers

Grammy-winning artist Lauryn Hill said it best, "It seems we lose the game before we even play. Who made these rules?" Perhaps rules are meant to be questioned. This workshop takes up womanist leadership as subversive acts to break normative barriers and cultivating new pathways to liberation and wholeness for ourselves and our communities.

Do It For Your Future Self: Manifesting Vision, Matching Vibration

Don't do it for the gram, Do It For Your Future Self! This workshop is a one-hour introduction to a Hip Hop Womanist consideration of sacred texts that call us to create, dream, manifest, conjure, and imagine. We will build from the works of Zora Neale Hurston on "Memory," Octavia E. Butler's work on "sacred text for the afrofutur," and Jhene Aiko's contributions to sound frequency and vibrational healing.

COFFEE BREAK

Grab a coffee. Take a seat with a cup of tea. It is Break Time. Dean Neichelle Guidry will invite participants to join her in the grounding and centering practice of manually brewing coffee utilizing a pour-over method. The coffee practice will be accompanied by two stories: one of her coffee memories in my grandmother's home and one of how her lifelong love of coffee enhances her vocation since being in quarantine. Once the coffee is brewed, Dean Guidry will "sit down" with participants for a time of sharing about the ritual practices that have kept us grounded in these times, how these practices fuel our work, and what they can mean for our leadership and the communities we serve.

HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING SESSIONS

Networking Sessions

This gathering will be a time to connect, make new friends, and reflect on what we have seen and heard during the day's events. Come with questions. We've identified networking groups by these categories: allies, seminarians, and clergywomen. Find a spot that fits. Bring a mug or cocktail. Come and rest with us.

Youth Zone

The Youth Zone Workshop led by educator and performer Keisha Blount Nelson "Auntie Keish" will be an engaging, performance-based workshop. We will provide a space for youth attendees to hone the ambition and divine creativity youth embody through writing, art, ritual, and imaginative play. Attendees can expect to co-create an art piece that will bring the conference theme to life.

Wine Down

This is our Happiest Hour! Bring your glass and your finest bottle of LoveCorkScrew wine. Prepare a charcuterie board (see the recipe section of the digital guide). Negotiant Chrishon Lampley will wine us down as we learn about pairing wines and mixing the perfect cocktails. As a special treat to all conference attendees, use the discount code "LOVE" at lovecorkscrew.com for a 15% discount on your choice of wine. And just in case you prefer mocktails, we've recommended a few non-alcoholic options so everyone can participate (see the recipe section of the digital guide).

EVENING ACTIVITY SESSIONS

BRAVE.BLACK.BOLD: Emerging Young Leaders

BRAVE.BLACK.BOLD. Young Leaders Workshop is an interactive presentation designed to engage young women (ages 12-18) in various aspects of creative writing, editing, and publishing that are conduits and tools for literacy and leadership. The history of being young, gifted, and Black in the publishing industry is explored and augmented with readings by the author of BRAVE. BLACK. FIRST. 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World. Author Cheryl Willis Hudson also presents her perspective as an entrepreneur and co-founder with her husband Wade Hudson of Just Us Books, Inc., the premier publisher of Black interest books for young people. Participants are encouraged to activate their own womanist voices within this workshop by exploring their purpose and passion through the written and spoken word.

Art with Austin

Break out your paint kit and apron from your conference box to paint with renowned muralist Austin "Auz" Miles! No experience is needed, just a will to create. All skill levels will acquire something from this painting tutorial. Together with Auz Miles, we will create a painting that highlights the Womanist Initiatives. Check out painting tips by Auz to prepare your space to paint.

Cooking Master Class

Every conference needs hospitality. Chef Tanorria, MasterChef contestant, will host a live cooking demonstration. Gather your materials and gain tips on cooking healthy southern cuisine. Chef Tanorria cooks from the heart and for the heart with recipes that help you make soul food that your body will thank you for. Make a trip to the market to prepare your ingredients and prep your cooking station by reviewing the grocery list and recipes from Tanorria's Table.

MORNING GLORY WOMANIST WORSHIP SERVICE

What is womanist worship? In the words of trailblazing womanist theologian Delores Williams, "womanist worship is an event in which black women's freedom of expression is obvious." From music to dance to drama to preaching, this worship service is a clearing as we meet the Divine in a virtual community. The brilliant artistry of Rev. Mia McClain, the soulful sounds of The Howard Gospel Choir, and the truth-telling proclamation of trailblazing scholar Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems will usher us to glory.

GOD, SPIRIT, ANCESTORS, AND THE EARTH: FUTURING WOMANIST INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE PANEL

Womanism celebrates more than thirty years as a prophetic social movement and transdisciplinary approach in the academy of religion. One significant contribution of third-wave womanist approaches is interreligious dialogue, which recognizes the diverse spiritualities and global Africana religious expressions of womanist scholars and practitioners beyond the Christocentric gaze. A womanist moral imperative to embrace the Black divine feminine, honor ancestors, and embody care for the earth is a shared point of connection among these interreligious perspectives. This panel gathers leading scholars across diverse Black religious traditions to engage the future of womanist interreligious dialogue.

GATEWAY TO WOMANIST WORSHIP CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Passages, Portals, Pathways: Womanist Rituals for Pandemic Times & Beyond

This workshop situates a particular African cosmology in the assignment of ritual purpose and Womanist practice. Participants will engage rituals that illustrate the cosmology as an ontological (the interdependent synergy of humanity & the Divine) and as an epistemological (way of knowing) collective behavior to repair the spiritual breach and/or moral injury so regularly identified through the work of Womanist scholar-activists.

Just Worship: Womanist Worship as Praxis for Building Just Communities

Taking into account the current socio-political climate, believers and seekers need music that equips them to face structural issues that attends to the oppressed of the oppressed in everyday life. This is a workshop purposed to introduce and re-orientate thinking around justice-minded worship leading that takes into account Black women's participation in the

local and international socio-cultural climate. Using ethnomusicological tools, participants will examine the question: What does justice for Black women sound like in worship?

QUEER AF: WOMANIST FUTURES AND QUEER PERSPECTIVES PANEL

Since the formation of womanism as a prophetic social movement for the survival and liberation of Black women and an entire African American people more than 30 years ago, critical and constructive conversations concerning the valuing of queer/quare and trans identities and experiences within womanist theological discourses abound. This panel gathers leading queer and trans scholars, clergywomen, and activists to engage Black queer women's leadership and womanist futures through queer perspectives.

GATEWAY TO WOMANIST WARES CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Womanist X: Cultivating Pathways to Whole Communities

The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership's mission is to nurture the soul of Black women as they cultivate pathways to whole communities. As Alice Walker states, if we are "committed to the survival and wholeness of entire people," then our womanist work must also cultivate communal strategies for achieving economic stability and sustainability. This workshop will identify patterns in Black women's moves towards economic independence and explore social entrepreneurship through the womanist paradigm. We will also share planning tools and resources for aspiring social entrepreneurs.

From the Ground Up: Money Moves for Self-Made Entrepreneurs

in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* (1982), the protagonist Celie lived into thriving by opening a "pants" business that helped her build her income, employ her community, and exercise her unique gifts of sewing. Entrepreneurship is one path toward cultivating the world we want to see and opens space to be imaginative. While women of color represent the fastest-growing entrepreneurs, their businesses are also slow to grow. Amanda Johnson of Mented Cosmetics, one of the leading beauty brands for women of color, will share tips for making smart money moves while leading and building sustainable ventures.

"LOVES THE STRUGGLE" MOVEMENT-MAKING FOR THE CULTURE: AN INTERGENERATIONAL CONVERSATION

"Traditionally capable, as in: "Mama, I'm walking to Canada and I'm taking you and a bunch of other slaves with me." Reply: 'It wouldn't be the first time.'" ~ Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mother's Garden* (1983)

Black women have always been on the frontlines of change-making. This conversation brings together Civil Rights activist Ruby Sales and mover and shaker Stephanie Younger to share their stories of activism and strategic tools for movement-making across generations.

“THE FUTURE OF WOMANIST LEADERSHIP” KEYNOTE LECTURE

Leading womanist thinker Dean Emilie Townes gives us a look at how spirituality and social witness work together to help us move to leadership styles based on justice and peace in the community.

GATEWAY TO WOMANIST WORKS: AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

Alice Walker taught us, “Hard times require furious dancing.” Straight outta New Orleans, Tank and the Bangas will join us for a featured performance as we celebrate artistry that makes you feel something. This is a head-bobbing, foot-stomping, twerk-something kinda evening. Let’s Dance! Let’s celebrate the end of an amazing virtual experience!

WINDOW SEAT CLOSING

When you are going somewhere, window seats give you all the feels. Something is charming and cozy about a window seat, whether flying high or chillaxing in a nook with your favorite podcast. As we close this virtual experience, Tank and the Bangas join us for a live conversation to talk about their creative process and musical journey. We’ll end the night raising our glasses and toasting to our collective futures.

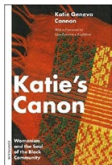
CONFERENCE SYLLABUS

READING LIST

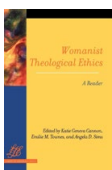
This list includes publications authored by conference speakers and introductory readings in womanism in line with the conference theme.



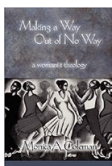
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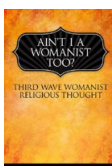
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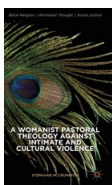
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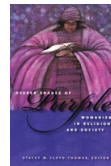
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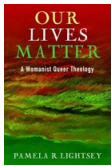
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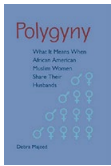
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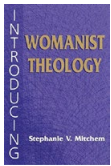
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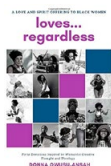
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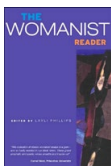
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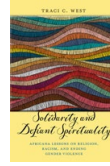
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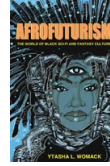
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MEDITATIONS

[*Race and The Cosmos*](#) by Dr. Barbara Holmes

SHORT FILMS

[*Curated Shorts*](#) by Conjure Girl Blue Productions

Password: #womanistfutures

[*Precipice*](#) by Conjure Girl Blue Productions

[*#dangerousbodies #blackwomen #scifi*](#) Ted Talk x Williams College by Dr. LeRhonda Manigault-Bryant

PODCASTS

[*For Collard Girls*](#)

[*GirlTrek Black History Bootcamp – Cosmonauts Edition*](#)

[*The Womanist Salon*](#)

[*Therapy for Black Girls*](#)

[*The Mystic Soul*](#)

[*The Homecoming Podcast*](#)

[*Lady Don't Take No*](#)

[*Intersectionality Matters*](#)

APPS

[*Shine*](#)

[*Come To Me*](#)

[*Soul Time*](#)

[*Liberate*](#)

RECIPES



"GOOD TIMES"

- 2 oz. "Good Times, Good Friends" Pinot Grigio
- 1 oz. dark rum
- 1/2 oz. vanilla syrup (1 tbsp)
- 1 oz. pineapple juice (1 tbsp)
- 1 lime wedge
- serve on the rocks

LOVE CORK SCREW®



"IN TOO DEEP"

- 3 oz. "In Too Deep" Vino Blanco
- 1.5 oz. Orange Juice
- .5 oz. Cointreau

LOVE CORK SCREW®



"WE'RE MOVIN ON UP"

- 1 oz. "We're Movin On Up" Cabernet Sauvignon
- 3 oz. Rum
- 1 tsp. Simple syrup
- 1/2 lime (juice of)

LOVE CORK SCREW®



NIAGRA



PINOT GRIGIO



CABERNET



CONCORD



RIESLING



BRUSECCO



**2021 KGCCWL
SPRING CONFERENCE**
Virtual Cooking Masterclass

Hosted by Chef Tanorria Askew

Friday, April 9, 2021 / 7pm (Eastern)

SHRIMP TACOS

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
 1 red bell pepper, diced
 1 jalapeno, diced
 1 small onion, diced
 2 cloves garlic, diced
 2 teaspoon chili powder
 1 teaspoon cumin
 1 teaspoon paprika
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined (I prefer 16/20 or 21/25 for tacos)*
 Juice of 1 lime
 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, minced
 1 head cabbage, shredded
 Taco size tortillas
 Lime wedges

Heat a medium skillet on medium heat. Add olive oil, peppers, and onions and sauté 2-3 minutes. Add spices and continue cooking for 2 more minutes. Add shrimp and cook just until shrimp turn opaque (2-3 minutes on each side). Add lime juice.

Remove pan from heat and add cilantro and toss around in the pan. Heat your tortillas by placing them directly on a gas burner for 15-20 seconds or laying them in a dry cast-iron skillet that's been heated to medium-high heat.

To build your taco, take one tortilla and add 2-3 pieces of shrimp, being sure to scoop up some peppers and onions while placing it in the lettuce leaf. Top with shredded cabbage, mango salsa, and avocado crema.

*For plant-based attendees, you can replace shrimp with two sweet potatoes or 2-3 zucchini.



MANGO SALSA

- 1 mangos, seeded and diced
- 1 jalapeno, diced
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- 2 limes, juiced
- 1 teaspoon salt

Combine mangos and other ingredients in a bowl and toss until fully coated by lime juice. Serve immediately or chill before serving.



AVOCADO CREMA

- 1 whole avocado, skin and pit removed.
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 lime juiced and zested
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor and cream together until smooth and fully incorporated. If the sauce seems thick, add the juice of another lime or a little water until you've reached the consistency you like.



THINGS *and* STUFF

SHOPPING LIST

PRODUCE

- Red bell peppers
- Jalapenos
- Yellow onion
- Mangos
- Red onion
- Cilantro
- Avocado
- Limes
- Garlic (one bulb)
- Cabbage

- _____
- _____
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MEAT/SEAFOOD

- Shrimp (16/20)*

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

SPICES/SEASONING

- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- Cumin
- Paprika
- Chili powder

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

INTERNATIONAL FOODS

- Taco size tortillas

- _____
- _____

COOKING OIL

- Extra virgin olive oil

- _____
- _____

DAIRY

- Sour cream

- _____
- _____
- _____

*For plant-based attendees, you can replace shrimp with 2 sweet potatoes or 2-3 zucchini.

- _____
- _____
- _____

EQUIPMENT LIST

[Knife](#)

[Cutting board](#)

[Large skillet](#)

[Spatula](#)

[Small bowl](#)

[Small skillet](#)

[Tongs](#)

[Citrus juicer](#)

[Blender or food processor](#)

Thank you
for joining me!

Get social with
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Please note that my equipment list includes affiliate links,
which help me to earn commission on items you purchase from my recommendations.



GRAZING BOARD

- ✦ Assorted Cheeses
- ✦ Assorted Fruits (Raw or Dried)
- ✦ Assorted Raw Vegetables
- ✦ Chocolate Squares
- ✦ Cured Meats
- ✦ Dipping Sauces (Dressings, Fig Jam, Hummus, etc.)
- ✦ Nuts
- ✦ Toast points or Pita Crackers

CONFERENCE MOCKTAILS

THE COSMONAUT “BLUE SHOE” MOCKTAIL

A Non-Alcoholic Blue Bubbly Mocktail that features the flavors of berry, cranberry and lemon-lime.

Recipe Mix By [Mix that Drink](#)

Prep time: 3 Minutes

Yield: 1 Drink

Ingredients

- ✦ 3 ounces Polar Blast Hawaiian Punch OR KoolAid Blue Raspberry Lemonade
- ✦ 2 ounces white cranberry juice
- ✦ 7-Up

Materials

- ✦ Martini Glass

Instructions

- ✦ Chill the ingredients beforehand.
- ✦ Pour the Polar Blast Hawaiian Punch into a large, chilled martini glass.
- ✦ Add the white cranberry juice.
- ✦ Fill the rest of the way with 7-Up
- ✦ Mix That Drink



LAVENDER DROP MOCKTAIL

A Non-Alcoholic lemon lavender mocktail

Recipe Mix by **The Merrythought**

Ingredients

- ✦ 1/4 cup Fresh Lemon Juice
- ✦ 1tbsp Dried Lavender
- ✦ 1 1/2 tbsp Lavender Simple Syrup
- ✦ 1/4 tsp Grenadine
- ✦ 3 dashes Bitters

Materials

- ✦ Martini Glass
- ✦ Sauce Pan

Instructions

- ✦ Combine above in shaker with ice and shake until cold.
- ✦ Strain into glass and top off with club soda.
- ✦ Garnish with fresh lavender.

Lavender Simple Syrup

Combine 1/2 cup water, 1/2 cup sugar, and 1 tbsp dried lavender to a sauce pan. Bring to a boil then turn off the heat. Let mixture cool in the pan and then strain out the lavender.



NON-ALCOHOLIC FRENCH 75 MOCKTAIL

Recipe Mix by **Alejandra Ramos**

Prep time: 2 minutes

Yield: 2 cocktails

Ingredients

- ✦ 2 cups ice
- ✦ 3 ounces fresh lemon juice
- ✦ 4 dashes lemon or orange bitters
- ✦ 2 (6-8oz) bottles premium tonic water
- ✦ 2 rock candy swizzle sticks

Materials

- ✦ Cocktail Shaker
- ✦ Champagne Flutes or Coupe Glasses



Instructions

- ✦ Add fresh lemon juice and bitters to cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake until frosty then divide into two champagne flutes or coupe glasses.
- ✦ Top off with tonic water until it reaches about 3/4 of the way up the glass.
- ✦ Garnish with the swizzle sticks and serve immediately.

NOTE: Can't find rock candy? Add 1 teaspoon superfine sugar along with the lemon juice and bitters in the shaker.

RASPBERRY MINT LIMEADE

Vegan, gluten-free and low-sugar.

Recipe Mix by Alex Caspero

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Total time: 15 minutes

Yield: 6 beverages

Ingredients

- ✦ 2 cups frozen raspberries
- ✦ 1 1/2 cups water
- ✦ 1/4 cup cane sugar
- ✦ 8 mint sprigs, plus more for garnish
- ✦ 1 cup freshly squeezed lime juice
- ✦ 3 cups soda water

Materials

- ✦ Blender
- ✦ Saucepan
- ✦ Glasses

Instructions

- ✦ Place frozen raspberries in a saucepan. Add water and sugar then bring to a simmer over medium-high heat then reduce to medium. Simmer, serving occasionally, for 5 minutes until berries are very soft and almost dissolved. Stir in the mint sprigs, then remove pan from heat. Let cool, and discard mint. For a thicker beverage, puree in a blender or using an immersion blender. For a smoother texture, strain and discard solids. Stir in lime juice.
- ✦ Divide juice among 6 glasses then top with soda water and mint sprigs.



GROUND RULES FOR VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Though we may not be physically gathering this year, that doesn't mean you shouldn't have the best experience! With several conferences having gone virtual, we thought we would help you out by providing a list of "Do's and Don'ts" to help you navigate our virtual event.

DO

Embrace the virtual spaces. We will be using Webinar and Zoom session formats for our conference with a range of interactive opportunities within our conference platform.

ATTEND THE VIRTUAL SESSIONS

Please show up to your sessions early.

DO I HAVE TO WATCH THE CONFERENCE FROM THE SAME DEVICE USED TO REGISTER?

You can use your registration login on any computer or device you prefer; however, you have to use the email address provided when you registered.

PREPARE TO BE ON CAMERA

Your energy transfers through the camera! When attending our Concurrent Workshops and Networking Sessions, we highly encourage you to engage with our presenters by being on camera. We invite you to participate in the conversation as it helps people see a face with a name and voice as you interact and connect with attendees.

USE A BACKGROUND IF YOU HAVE THE OPTION

You may download a virtual conference background so that the entire world does not see the inside of your home. Using a virtual background also prevents viewers from getting distracted by anything going on around you.

PUT YOURSELF ON MUTE

We will typically default to muting all attendees upon entering a space. Make sure you are on mute if you are not speaking. Use the raise hand features and chat box to ask questions or be acknowledged to ask a question if the opportunity presents itself. Being at home means dogs barking, kids laughing, and lawnmowers revving, so make sure you are on mute to avoid anyone else being distracted by some noises you have gotten adjusted to during these unprecedented times.

HOW TO CHAT ON THE PLATFORM

Chat to all: Use the text bar at the bottom of the chat window to type a message. When you chat the first time, you may have to add your name to the conference platform. Hit send, and your message will be public and visible to all.

TIP: To tag someone in your message, use the @ symbol to search for their name. The chat will automatically populate the names of those in the same chat.

VISIT THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION HALL

Our Sponsors, Vendors, and Exhibitors are a huge reason we can host this conference. Check out their virtual booths to see what new products and services are available to you! Also, check out the Expo time to see live chats with our Vendors and Exhibitors.

DOWNLOAD THE APPROPRIATE MATERIALS AND GET FAMILIAR WITH THEM BEFORE THE SESSIONS BEGIN

Don't wait until your sessions begin to download the appropriate materials in a session link. Please make sure your software and apps are up to date before going into the conference week.

WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHING (THAT EVERYONE CAN SEE)

Even though you are at home, we encourage you to dress accordingly to attend our virtual conference. You never know who you will be having a conversation with and asked to come on camera. Make sure you are ready to present yourself to the world. Since you are looking good, strike a pose at the KGCCWL conference virtual booth.

HOW MANY CEUs CREDITS CAN I EARN?

Continuing Education Unit (CEUs)

Attendees can earn up to 2.0 CEUs attending educational sessions during the live virtual conference from Thursday through Saturday. Sessions scheduled for 30 minutes will award 0.05 CEUs, 60 minutes will award 0.1 CEUs, and 90 minutes will award 0.15 CEUs. Beginning April 19, all attendees will have access to the on-demand platform for 90 days after the conference.

HOW LONG WILL ON DEMAND CONTENT BE AVAILABLE?

Content will be available for attendees to experience and revisit through July 24, 2021. While the "live" interactive features such as chat and Q&A will not be available after the virtual conference ends, attendees will still be able to view presentations and contact our Sponsors, Vendors, and Exhibitors as desired.

IF I HAVE TROUBLE, WHO CAN I CONTACT?

The KGCCWL Staff will be on standby via cwl@upsem.edu to answer conference questions and point you in the right direction, or you may leave a voicemail at our office line for a quick

reply at 804-278-4277. If you have trouble with the Expo Conference platform, a designated support team will be able to work with you in real-time via support@expopass.com.

DON'TS

KEEP THE CAMERA ON IF YOU WON'T BE VISIBLE

Whether it be during scheduled breaks or you have to get up to use the restroom, turn off your camera before you get up from your desk. This way, no one sees an empty chair at an empty desk – or sees what goes on behind the scenes at home. We want to protect your privacy too.

SCHEDULE MEETINGS OR PHONE CALLS DURING THE SESSIONS

Even if you aren't participating in a session, that doesn't mean you aren't busy. If someone tries to schedule time with you at the same time as a session, choose to attend the session. Being there live will only happen once, and while the recording may be available later, it's not quite the same.

WORK ON SIDE PROJECTS OR PLAY AROUND ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

It can be easy to get distracted with other tasks that are so easily accessible from your computer. Close all your windows and browser tabs so that you only have to focus on the content at hand. We want you to ENJOY the virtual experience.

ASK A QUESTION WITHOUT READING THE CHATBOX FIRST

Ask your question because someone may be thinking it. The beauty of chatboxes is that you can quickly go back and look at previous questions and comments. The chatbox is accessible to everyone, so if you ask a question someone has already asked and received an answer to, you could end up over-saturating the conversation with noise. If you find that a question has not been answered yet, and some time has passed, then feel free to ask it again. Moderators can sometimes get overwhelmed or even respond to people privately by mistake.

LOGIN LATE

You can only experience a live virtual session once. Showing up late means missing out on the potential need-to-know information and can leave you confused the remainder of the time. Schedule your time to make sure you catch housekeeping notes and agenda items and stay on track throughout the session.

Take advantage of all of the virtual sessions you can. Plan your schedule wisely. It may not be the same as being in person, but trust us, the information is just as valuable!

ATTENDEE HELP GUIDE

EVENT ACCESS

To access your event, you will receive an email from support@exposent.com containing a magic link to transport you straight into the event.

Magic Link

Need to generate a new Magic Link for yourself - no problem! **Click here:** [MAGIC LINK](#)

*** You must use the same email here that you used to register for the event. ***

If you do not see your new Magic Link in your email's inbox, please check your SPAM/ JUNK FOLDER in your email account as it may have been swept there.

For more information on how to generate a new Magic Link, check out this Help Article: [Magic Link Self Help](#)

INTERNET WEB BROWSER REQUIREMENTS



Not all internet browsers are the same. **We strongly recommend that you use the latest version of one of these Internet Browsers to access your event:** [Chrome](#), [Safari](#), [Firefox](#), [Microsoft Edge](#) with Chrome as the best option.

Not sure what browser you are using or if it is up-to-date? **Click here:** [BROWSER](#)

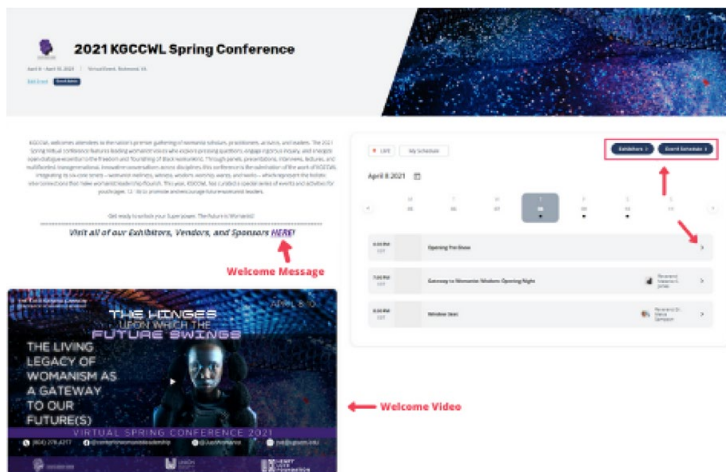
OPTIMAL INTERNET DOWNLOAD SPEED

Expo recommends that for optimal viewing you have at least a download speed greater than 10 Mbps. Want to check how fast you are? **Click here:** [SPEED](#)

EXPO PASS VIRTUAL EVENT NAVIGATION

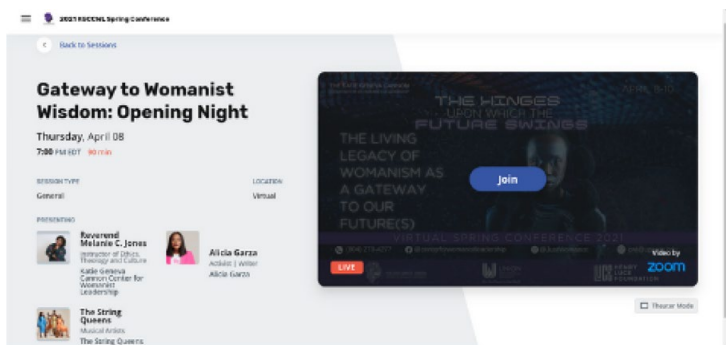
You are now in the Virtual Event! From here you can view the welcome message and video, preview the Sessions on the calendar, Click into the Event Schedule or Exhibitors and Vendors.

***If you would like to create a password, click on the red "!" in the top right corner, and follow the instructions at the bottom of the article [HERE](#).*



Once you have clicked into a Session, click “Join” or “Play” to begin.

Within your Session you can also download Session Materials, click on Speakers to find out more, and read more about it in Session Description.



CREATE A PASSWORD FOR FUTURE LOGINS

If you received your Magic Link for your event and would like to create a password for future logins, **Click here:** [CREATE A PASSWORD](#)

MORE QUESTIONS?

Here is a link to our complete Attendee Help Guide . **Click here:** [HELP GUIDE](#)

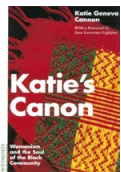
If you are in your event, and have any non-technical questions like “*Will these sessions be recorded and available for replay?*”, our Production Team is ready, willing, and able to assist you. Please contact us at (804)381-4002.

If you have any other questions, please reach out to our Event Success support team at support@expopass.com.

THE FUTURE IS WOMANIST CONFERENCE BOX

The conference box is an exclusively curated box with Center keepsakes, conference memorabilia, and conference materials for the evening activity sessions. The box contents have an estimated value of \$135 per box (sans shipping) and will be shipped to the mailing address entered on your registration. All registrants will receive a conference box. Those who registered by the early bird deadline are guaranteed to receive a box before the conference.

ATTENDEES



**Katie's Canon:
Womanism and the
Soul of the Black
Community** (Katie
Geneva Cannon, PhD.)



KGCCWL Journal



**KGCCWL 22 oz.
Tumbler**



**Womanist Futures
Cannon Doodle Pin**



KGCCWL Tote



Paint kit



**KGCCWL TouchTool
Pro**



**KGCCWL Cannon
Doodle mask**



KGCCWL Apron



**KGCCWL Light
Up Pen**

YOUTH



KGCCWL Journal



Paint kit



**Brave. Black.
First.: 50+ African
American Women
Who Changed
the World** (Cheryl
Hudson)



**KGCCWL Light Up
Pen**



KGCCWL Apron



**KGCCWL Cannon
Doodle mask**

GIVE PAGE - DONATIONS

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THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON SCHOLARSHIP AT UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

The Katie Geneva Cannon Scholarship Fund awards a merit scholarship to an incoming degree-seeking woman of African descent enrolled in the Th.M. program (Richmond campus) or M.Div., M.A.C.E., MAPT, or dual programs (Richmond and Charlotte campus) who demonstrates strong academic achievement and shows genuine promise for womanist leadership that is dedicated to transforming the academy, the church, and the community. Scholarships begin at 100% of tuition and include an additional grant for the duration of the student's academic program at Union. Scholarships begin at 100% of tuition and include an additional grant for the duration of the student's academic program at Union.

Congratulations to LaWonder MacDowell on being named The Katie Geneva Cannon Scholar on the Charlotte campus.



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Paint Our Future

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Duke Divinity School Office of Black Church Studies



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Beautiful Ventures



Faith Matters Network



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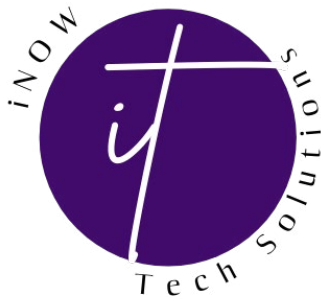


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SPECIAL THANKS

The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership would like to thank all of our partners, sponsors, exhibitors, vendors, donors, patrons, supporters, production managers, videographers, speakers, artists, volunteers, and attendees who made this conference possible. The Future is Now. The Future is Black. The Future Is WOMANIST!

DOOR SIGNS

Print these signs and hang them on the door to help limit distractions and interferences during your virtual conference experience!

SHHH!

GOING BACK TO THE FUTURE!




#THEFUTUREISWOMANIST

**DO NOT
DISTURB.**
I AM UNLOCKING
MY SUPERPOWER!

.....
#THEFUTUREISWOMANIST





**BE RIGHT
BACK.**

**Opening The Gateway
to Womanist Futures!**

.....
#THEFUTUREISWOMANIST

DIGITAL COLLATERAL



THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON
CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP



Leadership Institute

THE KATIE GENEVA CANNON CENTER FOR WOMANIST LEADERSHIP
AND THE LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE ANNOUNCE

The Womanist Leadership Institute

A leadership institute for curious and continuing learners
of womanist religious thought and practice

Diverse Instructors

Interactive Engagement

Weekly Sessions

Online Learning



SUMMER 2021

FALL 2021

Womanist Theology: A Primer

Rev. Dr. Michele Watkins

Tuesdays, July 13 – August 17, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. EST

Womanist Activism & Public Witness

Rev. Dr. Teresa Smallwood

Tuesdays, September 21 – October 26, 2021
7:00 - 9:00 p.m. EST

WINTER 2022

SPRING 2022

Proto-Womanist Thought

Rev. Dr. Jean Derricotte-Murphy

Tuesdays, January 11 – February 1, 2022
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. EST

Womanist Social Ethics

Rev. Dr. Nikia Robert

Mondays, February 21 – March 28, 2022
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm EST

\$175 for early registration (per course)

\$225 for standard registration (per course)

The Womanist Leadership Institute is co-sponsored by The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership and the Leadership Institute of Union Presbyterian Seminary. This program is a series of online courses to promote and support Womanist scholarship and leadership within a continuing education and lifelong learning environment.

Union Presbyterian Seminary | 3401 Brook Road, Richmond, Virginia 23227 | www.centerforwomanistleadership.org

cwl@upsem.edu

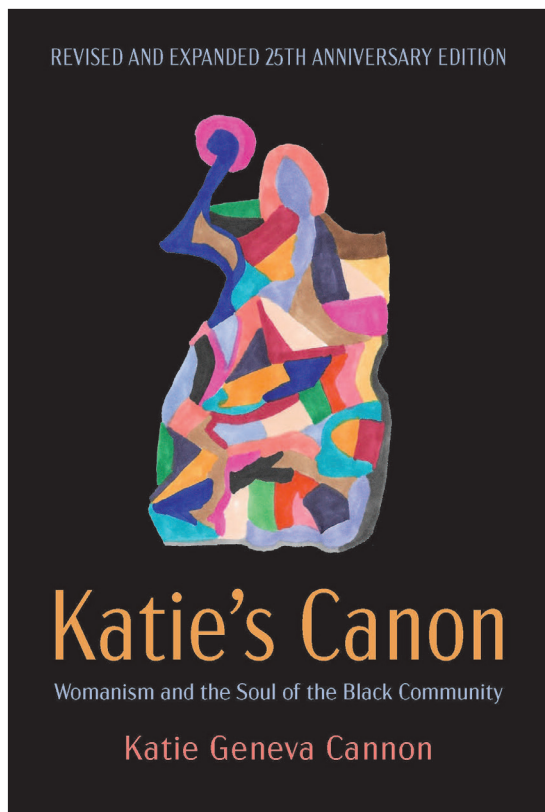
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Katie's Canon

Womanism and the Soul of the Black Community,
Expanded 25th Anniversary Edition

Katie Geneva Cannon

Katie's Canon is a selection of essays written for a variety of occasions throughout Cannon's celebrated career. This new edition contains three additional essays and a new foreword by Emilie Townes. The volume weaves together the particularities of Cannon's own history and the oral tradition of African American women, African American women's literary traditions, and sociocultural and ethical analysis. The result is a classic. Cannon addresses racism and economics, analyses of Zora Neale Hurston as a resource for a constructive ethic, the importance of race and gender in the development of a Black liberation ethic, womanist preaching in the Black church, and slave ideology and biblical interpretation.

Katie Geneva Cannon (1950–2018) was the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia (2001–2018). She was the first African American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (USA) and was the pioneer of womanist theology and ethics. Among her many books are *God's Fierce Whimsy: The Implications of Feminism for Theological Education* (1985), *Black Womanist Ethics* (1988), *Teaching Preaching: Isaac Rufus Clark and Black Sacred Rhetoric* (2007), *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader* (2011), and *The Oxford Handbook of African American Theology* (2014).

Praise from the first edition

“This is vintage Katie Cannon—challenging, prophetic,
self-critical, and womanist to the bone.”

—Cornel West

“In her book *Katie's Canon*, the explosive voice of Katie Geneva Cannon as womanist and theological liberation ethicist boldly proclaims the vital presence and contributions of African American women.”

—The Presbyterian Outlook



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