



LAKISHA R. LOCKHART

RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR & PLAY FACILITATOR

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone:

(706) 464-7725

Address:

4310 Bon Secours Pkwy,
Condo B, Henrico, VA 23233

Website:

www.LakishaRLockhart.com

Email:

LakishaRLockhart@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy

Boston College - 2018
Theology & Education

Master of Arts

Vanderbilt University
2012

Master of Divinity

Wesley Theological
Seminary
2011

Bachelor of Arts

Claflin University
2008

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religious education; practical, liberation, and Womanist theologies; ethics and society; multiple intelligences; embodied faith and pedagogies; theological aesthetics' theo-poetics; creativity, imagination and play.

My current research focuses on utilizing womanish play as pedagogy for teaching and learning across difference in theological education.

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching takes seriously the benefits and necessity of play, movement, aesthetics, creative arts, and embodiment as foundational as I advocate for the usage of the body as a locus for doing theology and theological reflection. Engaged and embodied pedagogy, mutuality, and providing a ludic learning environment foster intercultural and interreligious learning, dialogue, and teaching that can be transformative. Using engaged and embodied pedagogy makes space for the embodied, ontological, and epistemological realities of all persons and communities allowing for the uplifting and valuing of diverse, and often marginalized, voices and experiences. I not only see myself as professor, but as a facilitator, rope jumper, game-player, sojourner, advocate, disruptor and catalyst for critical consciousness, liberation, and engagement that leads to action and change.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY 2021 -PRESENT

- Embodied Faith (Fall 2021)

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY 2020- 2021

- Introduction to Pastoral Theology Online (Fall 2020 & Spring 2021)
- AIDS and Violence (Fall 2020)
- Pedagogies (Spring 2021)
- CDF Proctor Freedom Seminary (Summer 2021)

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

- Multiple Intelligences (2018-2020)
- Philosophy of Education (2017-2020)
- Education in Context (2017-2020)
- Embodied Faith (2019-2020)
- Youth Ministry Intensive (2019)

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- Formation & Discipleship (Hybrid, Summer 2018)
- Formation & Discipleship (Hybrid, Fall & Summer 2016)



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CONSULTING & DIRECTING EXPERIENCE

FORUM FOR THEOLOGICAL EXPLORATION 2018- PRESENT

- Consultant on behalf of Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Campus Ministry for Theological Exploration of Vocation Initiative (CMTEV).
- Servicing 104 Campus Ministries across the US.

VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY - SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

- Served as Program & Faculty Director of STREAM Youth Theology Institute (2016-2019).
- Servicing high school students as they explore what it means to live out their faith in the world.

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author of *United Against Racism: Churches for Change: Facilitator's Guide*. National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Friendship Press, 2018.
- "Let's Dance: Zumba and the Imago Dei of Beautiful Black Bodies" *The Other Journal: An Intersection of Theology & Culture*. Vol. 26: Sport, Spring 2016.
- Review of *The Grace of Playing: Pedagogies for Leaning into God's New Creation* by Courtney Goto in *Religious Education* Volume 112, 2017 – Issue 3.
- "My Wildest Dream: A Letter to My Black Son." *Religious Education*. Volume 115, 2020.
- "Got Body." *The FTE Guide to Discernment Retreats*. Decatur: The Forum for Theological Exploration, 2019.

PUBLIC LECTURES & PODCASTS

- "Power of Play." The Distillery Podcast for Princeton Theological Seminary, 2020
- Theopoetics Podcast. Ep. 01 A Poetics of Theopoetics with Dr. Lakisha Lockhart and Callid Keefe-Perry, 2018.
- The Rising: Spirituality for Revolution Podcast. E14 What is Theopoetics? Centering Creativity, Imagination, and The Arts in Spirituality with Lakisha Lockhart & Callid Keefe-Perry, 2018.
- "Holding Lightly: Cultivating Playfulness in Youth." Co-presentation with Dr. Courtney Goto. Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Project at Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2017.

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CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Daughter of The Revolution: Black Women, The Civil Rights Movement and Soundtracks for Liberation a Panel Discussion. Beyonce Mass. University of Redlands, Redlands, CA
- 2018 “Art, Faith, and the Pursuit of Justice: The Sanctuaries and Interreligious Interculturalism among Artists Working for Social Change. Presented with a colleague at the Religious Educators Association Conference in Reston, VA
- 2018 “Vocational Play.” Presented at Campus Ministry Theological Exploration of Vocation gathering as an Idea/Exploration Lab Leader. Indianapolis, IN
- 2016 “Tag...You’re It: Play as a Resource for Violence Caused by Educational Dislocation.” Presented at the Association of Practical Theology. New York City
- 2015 “Being Scandal-less: Re-imagining the Narrative of the Successful Black Woman.” Presented at American Academy of Religion in the Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group. Atlanta, GA
- 2014 “Theological Edu-PLAY-tion: *Interplay* as a pedagogical tool for the ‘un-making’ of violence and aggression.” Presented at the Religious Educators Association. Chicago, IL

COHORTS/FELLOWSHIPS/RETREATS

- 2020 Wabash Digital Salon Cohort: Tending to the Body and Soul of Early Career Theological School Educators
- 2019 Weekend Retreat facilitation for campus ministry group Pres House on “Finding Purpose Through Play.” Madison, WI.
- 2019 Facilitated a Play Field Day and Picnic at Campus Ministry Theological Horizons. Charlottesville, VA.
- 2018 A Convocation of Christian Leaders, Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, Durham, NC
- 2018 Convening of Practical Theologians of Color, Auburn Seminary, NY
- 2017 Co-facilitator of Deepening Circle retreats and workshops with Arts|Religion|Culture organization
- 2018 Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Scholar-Practitioner Collaborative with Yale Center for Faith and Culture and the Yale Youth Ministry Institute, Yale University, New Haven, CT

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SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2020-2023 Executive Secretary, Religious Education Association
- 2020-2023 Member of Advisory Council for the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership
- 2020 Member of Nominations Committee for Association of Practical Theology
- 2020 Small Group Leader for Digital Forum on Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary
- 2019- 2020 Member of Advisory Council of the Religious Education Association
- 2019- 2020 Member of Committee on Religious Education in Public Life and Global Communities of the Religious Education Association
- 2018-2020 Member of Seminary track faculty team for Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School
- 2018 High School Youth Theology Institute Advisory Team through the Lilly Endowment, Inc.
- 2017- 2019 President, Arts, Religion, Culture Organization

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2011-Present American Academy of Religion
- 2017-Present Arts, Religion, and Culture (ARC)
- 2017-Present Association for Youth Ministry Education
- 2007-Present Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- 2013-Present Religious Education Association
- 2016-Present The Association of Practical Theology

AWARDS/HONORS

- 2018 Millennial Womanist to Watch with The Millennial Womanist Project
- 2018 Images of Success at Alma Mater Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC.
- 2017 First Wornom Innovative Grant From Religious Educators Association Project Title: Art, Faith, and The Pursuit of Justice.”

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