

**GAY L. BYRON**  
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### **EDUCATION**

**Union Theological Seminary**, New York, NY (M.Div.; M.Phil.; Ph.D.)  
New Testament and Christian Origins

**Clark Atlanta University**, Atlanta, GA (M.B.A. – Finance)

**Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL (B.S. – Accounting)

### **TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**Howard University School of Divinity – Washington, DC (2012-present)**

*Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity*

Courses Taught: Early Ethiopian Christianity; New Testament Critical Introduction; Sacred Texts and Hermeneutics (with Dr. Cain Hope Felder and Dr. Zainab Alwani); Personal Financial Management (with Mr. Theodore Daniels)

Guest Lecturer: History of Christianity (Dr. Michael Bledsoe); Ethics and Politics [Inside-Out Program at D.C. Jail] (Dr. H. Dean Trulear)

**Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning – Crawfordsville, IN (2016-2017)**

Leadership Team Instructor/Facilitator, Early Career Faculty Workshop.

With a distinguished group of three other colleagues and staff from the Wabash Center, developed, organized, and led a year-long workshop for a dozen pre-tenure theological faculty.

**Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry – Seattle, WA (Summer 2016)**

*Visiting Professor (July 2016)*. Taught intensive course “African Christianity: Nile Valley Biblical Texts and Traditions.” Invited to teach “Biblical Theologies: Liberation and Womanist Approaches,” (July 2017).

**Durham University – Durham, United Kingdom (2014-2015)**

*External Examiner, Ph.D. Dissertation Committee (Roberto Alejandro)*

Title: “Transparency in Early Christian Texts: A Postcolonial Reading”

**St. John Fisher College – Rochester, NY (Spring 2008)**

*Visiting Professor*. Taught undergraduate course, Contemporary Issues in the Black Church.

**Hugree Theological Institute – Harlem, NY (1995-1997)**

Instructor, Introduction to New Testament Greek

**Union Theological Seminary – New York, NY (1994-1997)**

Instructor, Introduction to New Testament Greek (Summer 1994); Teaching Assistant for New Testament introductory courses (1994-1997); Field Education Seminar (1996)

**Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - Rochester, NY (1999-2012)**

*Baptist Missionary Training School Professor of New Testament & Christian Origins (2007-2012)*

*Baptist Missionary Training School Associate Professor of New Testament & Black Church Studies (2005-2007)*

*Associate Professor of New Testament & Black Church Studies in the Baptist Missionary Training School Chair of Biblical Interpretation (2003-2005)*

*Associate Professor of New Testament & Black Church Studies (2002-2003)*

*Assistant Professor of New Testament & Black Church Studies (1999-2002)*

Courses Taught:

**M. Div. Program** – Introduction to the Gospels, Paul and the Pauline Tradition, The Corinthian Correspondence, The Gospel of John, The Letter of James, New Testament Ethics, Early Christian Asceticism, African American Biblical Hermeneutics, Ascetic Dimensions of the Black Church Tradition, Images of Ethnicity in Early Christian Literature, Gender and Sexuality in Early Christian Literature, Early Ethiopian Christianity, Early Christianity within the Nile Valley, Introduction to New Testament Greek; **Hybrid Courses:** Paul and the Pauline Tradition, Reading the Bible in Global Context; Ascetic Dimensions of the Black Church Tradition

**D. Min. Program** – Doing Racial Justice (June 2004), Preaching the Prophetic Passages of the New Testament (January 2009; January 2012), African American Biblical Interpretation (scheduled for June 2017).

**School for Christian Leadership/Thurman King School of Black Church Leadership** – Texts and Foundations: Introduction to the Gospels (September 2010); Paul and the Pauline Tradition (October 2011).

**Program for Education and Action for Responsible Leadership (PEARL)** – Corinthian Correspondence (2000-2001), Pauline Letters (2002-2003)

**Continuing Education Course** – African American Biblical Hermeneutics (May 18, 2005), This course was held at Zion Hill Baptist Church, Rochester, NY

**ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

**A. ACADEMIC**

**Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School - Rochester, NY**

*Interim Dean of Black Church Studies (2010-11); Dean of Black Church Studies (2011-2012)*

Primary Responsibilities: To provide oversight and leadership of the Office of Black Church Studies; to provide guidance, mentoring, and support of African American students; to lead faculty in assessing and recommending programmatic initiatives for the Program in light of the overall mission of the Divinity School; and to reconnect with alumni/ae, African American clergy, and other key stakeholders in the greater Rochester area and throughout the nation. Additional: Established the Howard Thurman Annual Lecture (1999); Provided initiative and oversight in establishing the Thurman King School of Black Church Leadership in conjunction with the CRCDS School of Christian Leadership. The Thurman King School (named in honor of two CRCDS alumni, Howard Thurman and M.L. King, Jr.) offers courses for African American and other lay and clergy leaders in the Rochester community and throughout upstate New York. Planning and oversight of an annual fundraiser for the Program – the Martin Luther King, Jr. Songfest.

## **Howard University School of Divinity – Washington, DC**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (2012-2017)*

### Primary Responsibilities:

- \* Provided oversight and leadership of the academic affairs of the School of Divinity, with special emphasis on faculty development, curriculum planning and assessment, course scheduling, and strategic partnerships throughout Howard University and among external ecclesial, academic, and civic partners
- \* Worked closely with senior administrators, faculty, and staff colleagues in strategic planning and other programmatic initiatives, which reflect the vision and mission of the School
- \* Supported students in achieving their academic goals through engagement of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for learning; and when necessary, assisted students in handling grievances and navigating various academic challenges
- \* Provided oversight and support of new faculty searches
- \* Supported faculty through promotion and tenure processes and other career transitions and professional development

### Additional Accomplishments:

- \* Administered programs and activities related to a Lilly Endowment, Inc. grant dealing with Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers (2015-2018)
- \* Supported and facilitated sustained dialogue among HUSD and HU colleagues across campus in support of a “Science for Seminaries” grant (2016-2017)
- \* Planned, developed, and participated in a HU Sesquicentennial Program in partnership with the National Human Genome Center (Feb. 2017)
- \* Developed and coordinated logistics for a new course offering (Ethics and Politics) and facilitated a partnership with the D.C. Jail and the Inside-Out Program [with the College of Arts and Sciences] (2016-2017)
- \* Provided oversight and leadership with relocating the Divinity School to the West Campus of the University (2014-2015)
- \* Supported students in participating in HU’s Annual Research Week (2013-2015)

## **B. MAJOR GRANTS**

### **Lilly Endowment, Inc. – Indianapolis, IN (\$250,000)**

*Principal Investigator (2015-2018).* Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers. Program organized through the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

“Equipping the Pastors: Financial Stewardship for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ministry.” Planned, organized, and administered academic and financial literacy programs for students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Developed a course on Personal Financial Planning for Ministers, Presented findings at national conferences and in local settings at Howard University. Worked in partnership with the Society of Financial Education and Professional Development and other community organizations dealing with gentrification and other economic factors impacting urban areas throughout the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Processed and coordinated budgetary matters with Howard University’s Research Administrative Services.

## **C. CORPORATE**

### **Ford Motor Company – Dearborn, MI**

*Internal Auditor; Financial Analyst (1986-1989)*

Worked in several aspects of auditing (including dealer, supplier, and internal) to review and document operational protocols and financial management standards on individual and team projects. Traveled to dealerships and plants across the U.S. and Canada. Met with owners, senior directors, and employees in various job functions to gather information. Synthesized data, wrote reports, and presented findings to company management in local settings and in the world headquarters. Also, analyzed pension accounts and generated actuarial tables for the company’s annual report.

## **COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING**

*[most recent projects]*

### **Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)**

In consultation with the Executive Director of SBL, co-chairing and organizing a “biblical studies think tank” to consider the future of biblical studies in the context of theological education. Our goal is to propose suggestions for curricular design that are responsive to the significant pressures theological education is facing. This meeting is scheduled for June 2020.

### **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)**

Participated in workshops dealing with “Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue” sponsored by AAAS and the Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER), 2017-2019. Expanded my course on “Sacred Texts and Hermeneutics” to include guest lectures on human genomics and “Islam and Science.”

### **Ethiopian Scientific and Academic Network (ESAN)**

Through AAAS, developed and submitted a proposal for a public engagement project in collaboration with colleagues in Howard University’s College of Pharmacy and Department of Biology. Our project involved a panel presentation focused on “Connecting DC and Ethiopian Communities in Science, Spirituality, and Scholarship,” during the ESAN Annual Conference held at the Ethiopian Embassy, May 18, 2019.

### **Society for Financial Education and Professional Development (SFEPD)**

Collaborating with financial education leaders of SFEPD to develop curricular offerings to address the economic challenges facing future ministers. Developed a course on Personal Financial Planning for Ministers with the president of the organization. Presented our learning outcomes at national conferences.

## **GLOBAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES AND ECCLESIAL PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Munich, Germany (January 2018)**

Met with colleagues at the University of Munich [Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München] to discuss mutual interests in Ethiopian studies and biblical hermeneutics. Shared insights about scholarly projects at our respective schools. Lectured during a graduate-level seminar. Met with students and faculty. Visited libraries, academic institutes, and various cultural sites.

### **Trinidad, West Indies (October 2016)**

Traveled with key administrators from Howard University School of Divinity to explore potential academic offerings and partnerships with theological schools in the country. Met with protestant and catholic clergy leaders. Lectured and preached in local churches.

### **Warsaw, Poland (August 2015)**

Attended the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ethiopian Studies. Presented a paper on the Ethiopic version of “The Acts of Paul.” Met with colleagues and toured libraries and cultural institutions.

### **Jerusalem, Israel (July 2014)**

Participated in a two-week Christian Leadership Initiative sponsored by the Shalom Hartman Institute. My cohort of 18 Christian leaders in theological education and various denominational bodies studied different aspects of Jewish theology, sacred writings, and spiritual practice through immersion in Jewish texts, contexts, and traditions.

### **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (November 2005; January 2016)**

Attended “The Bible and Its African Roots Conference” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and traveled to religious and cultural sites in Axum, Lalibela, Gonder, and Bahar Dar (November 9-19, 2005). Organized and led a delegation of HUSD colleagues to Addis Ababa and the Debre Libanos monastery for the return of a rare Ethiopic manuscript (January 9-21, 2016).

***Accra, Ghana (July 1996)***

Participated in a 10-day study and travel delegation for clergy in the New York City metropolitan area. Visited the W.E.B. DuBois Institute, slave castles, and other cultural centers throughout Accra and surrounding cities.

**PUBLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP**

***Books***

*Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. Ed. Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature Press, 2016.

*Symbolic Blackness and Ethnic Difference in Early Christian Literature*. London and New York: Routledge, 2002.

Assistant Editor, *Asceticism*. Ed. Vincent L. Wimbush and Richard Valantasis. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995, 2002.

***Journal Articles and Book Chapters [representative sample]***

“My SBL Journey: Service, Scholarship, and Staying Connected to the ‘Call’,” in *Women and the SBL* Atlanta: SBL Press, 2019.

“President Obama, Biblical Truth, and Political Rhetoric,” in *Mr. President: Interfaith Perspectives on the Historic Presidency of Barack H. Obama*, (Compiled by Barbara Williams-Skinner and Darryl D. Sims; Washington, DC: Sims Publishing Group, 2017), 73-75.

“Black Collectors and Keepers of Tradition: Resources for a Womanist Biblical Ethic of (Re)Interpretation,” in *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. (Ed. Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace; Atlanta: SBL Press, 2016), 187-208.

“James,” in *Women’s Bible Commentary (Twentieth-Anniversary Edition) Revised and Updated*. (Ed. Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley; Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 613-615.

“Race, Ethnicity, and the Bible: Pedagogical Challenges and Curricular Opportunities.” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 15, 2 (April 2012): 105-124.

“Redrawing the Boundaries of Early Christianity: The Case of the Axumite Empire and Its Sources,” in *A New Day: Essays on World Christianity in Honor of Lamin Sanneh*. (Ed. Akintunde E. Akinade; New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 2010), 135-141.

“Dialogical Beginnings: A Conversation on the Future of Feminist Biblical Studies Roundtable Response.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 25.2 (2009): 93-143, esp. 121-125.

“Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament: Ethnic (Con)texts and Racialized (Sub)texts,” in *They Were All Together in One Place?: Toward Minority Biblical Criticism*. Semeia Studies Series. (Ed. Fernando Segovia, Randall Bailey, and Benny Liew; Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2009), 161-190.

“Uncovering the Origins of Christianity in Ethiopia.” *The Presbyterian Outlook* (Nov. 5, 2007): 13-14.

“James,” in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary* (Ed. Brian K. Blount, Cain Hope Felder, Clarice J. Martin, and Emerson Powery; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 461-475.

“Manuscripts, Meanings, and (Re)Membering: Ethiopian Women in Early Christianity.” *Journal of Religious Thought* (2006-2007): 83-99.

“Images of Masculinity in the Pauline Epistles: Resources for Constructing Progressive Black Masculinities, or Not?” in *Progressive Black Masculinities* (Ed. Athena D. Mutua; New York and London: Routledge, 2006), 101-120.

“The Challenge of ‘Blackness’ for Rearticulating the Meaning of Global Feminist New Testament Studies Interpretation,” in *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives* (Ed. K. O’Brien Wicker, A. Spencer Miller, and M.W. Dube; New York: Palgrave, 2005), 85-101.

“Biblical Interpretation as an Act of Community Accountability,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 56:1-2 (2003): 55-58.

***Biblical Commentaries, Book Reviews, and Dictionary Entries [representative sample]***

“Ethnicity.” Pages 350-351 in *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible (D-H, vol. 2)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014.

“Racism.” Pages 725-727 in *The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible (Me-R, vol. 4)*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2014.

Book review. *Call and Consequences: A Womanist Approach to Mark*. Raquel St. Clair. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008 in *Interpretation* 65, no. 1 (2011): 95-96.

*Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary Year A, Volume 2: Lent through Eastertide*, Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; Romans 5:1-11; Ephesians 5:8-14. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press (2010).

*Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary Year C, Volume 5: Epiphany* Luke 4:21-30; Luke 5:1-11; Luke 6:17-26. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press (2010).

Book review. *The Talking Book: African American Biblical Interpretation*. Allen Dwight Callahan. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005 in *Biblical Interpretation* 18, nos. 4-5 (2010): 430-432.

Book review. *Revealing the Invisible: Confronting Passive Racism in Teacher Education*. Sherry Marx. The Teaching/Learning Social Justice Series; New York: Routledge Press, 2006 in *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* (2009): 80-82.

Book review. *Blow the Trumpet in Zion: Global Vision and Action for the 21st-century Black Church*. Ed. Iva Carruthers, Frederick D. Haynes III, and Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. Fortress Press, 2005 in *Biblical Interpretation: A Journal of Contemporary Approaches* (2006): 543-46.

***Other Publications (Print, Video, Online)***

Video Conference Interview. “Womanist Interpretations of the Bible.” WATERtalk. Scheduled for March 6, 2019.

Podcast Interview. “Speaking of Race.” Sponsored by the American Anthropological Association, March 4, 2019.

G.L. Byron – CV (08.2019)

“Interview and Conversation on *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*.” With co-editor Dr. Vanessa Lovelace. Facebook Live. The Gathering-A Womanist Church, WomanistWednesdays. <https://www.thegatheringexperience.com/>. April 25, 2018.

“A Letter to President Trump et al.” *American Values, Religious Voices: 100 Letters. 100 Days*. Published online: <http://www.valuesandvoices.com/the-letters/>. April 16, 2017. Published in print: Andrea L. Weiss and Lisa M. Weinberger (eds.), Cincinnati: University of Cincinnati Press, 2019 (p. 129).

“An Open Letter to Presidents and Deans of Theological Schools in the United States (January 2015).” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 71.4 Special Issue on Race and Racism (October 2017).

“Devotional Reading and Prayer on Romans 8:31-39.” For the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PC(U.S.A.), Minneapolis, MN, July 6, 2010.

“Liberation Theology Gives Hope to the Oppressed,” Op-Ed Essay for the *Democrat & Chronicle*, Rochester, NY, March 27, 2008, page 7A.

“First Corinthians.” Video presentation for the revised edition of *Disciple: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. DVD – Second Edition. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.

“Holy Man/Holy Community: Howard Thurman, Early Christian Asceticism, and the Black Church Tradition.” Published in a Special Edition of *Hungryhearts*. Office of Spiritual Formation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Vol. XII, no. 3 (Fall 2003): 7-12.

### ***Editorial Boards***

#### Womanist Readings of Scripture Book Series

Co-editor (with Dr. Mitzi Smith), 2018-present. Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, an imprint of Rowman & Littlefield.

#### Journal of Religious Thought

Interim Editor (2015-2016); Editor (2016-2017). Succeeded Dr. Cain Hope Felder in providing editorial oversight of the *Journal of Religious Thought*, published through the Howard University School of Divinity.

#### Semeia Studies Book Series

Member of the Editorial Board (2011- 2016). Society of Biblical Literature. Reviewed proposals; Board Editor for *Scripturalizing Revelation: An African American Postcolonial Reading of Empire* (Darden, 2015) and *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse* (Byron and Lovelace, 2016).

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, CONFERENCE PAPERS, PUBLIC LECTURES**

#### ***[representative sample]***

Invited Panelist. “Science for Seminaries at Howard University School of Divinity: A Model of Sustainability.” Beyond the Research: A Transdisciplinary Dialogue Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue. Sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Dialogue on Science, Religion, and Ethics, Howard University, Washington, DC, February 27, 2019.

Invited Guest Preacher. "A Message About Freedom." Trailblazers 2019: Shades of Black: Empowering Voices of Liberation (Honoring Dr. James H. Cone). Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, February 15, 2019.

Invited Holiday Lecturer. "A Tapestry of Health: Genetic Diversity, History, and Cultural Identity." (With Dr. Charles Rotimi and Dr. Lesley Jo Weaver). American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC, December 18, 2018.

Invited Lecturer. "Womanist Readings of Scripture: From the Wilderness to the Ends of the World." 2018 Bible Conference: Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics: Theology and Praxis. New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY, November 5, 2018.

Conference Paper. "Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Ethiopic Manuscripts and Biblical Scholarship." Second International Conference on Ethiopian Church Studies. Atlanta, GA, October 20-21, 2018.

Invited Panelist. Inaugural Gathering for the Center for Womanist Leadership. Union Presbyterian Seminary and The Proctors School of Theology of Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, April 5-7, 2018.

Invited Panelist. "Womanist Perspectives on Politics and Religion." Purdue University, Lafayette, IN, March 26, 2018.

Invited Guest Lecturer. "Introducing Womanist Biblical Interpretation." Purdue University, Lafayette, IN, March 26, 2018.

Invited Plenary Speaker. "Sacred Text as a Source of Resistance, Memory, and Prayer." 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference - Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sanitation Workers' Strike and Martyrdom of Dr. King. Memphis, TN, February 12, 2018.

Invited Lecturer. New Testament Research Colloquium. "Non-Traditional Approaches to Text Criticism: Ethiopic Manuscripts, Biblical Scholarship, and Public History." Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. München, Germany, February 1, 2018.

Invited Bible Study Lecturer. "Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse in Church and Society." Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA, January 27, 2018.

Panelist. Book Review of *Latino/a Biblical Hermeneutics*. 2017 SBL/AAR Meeting, Boston, MA, November 20, 2017.

Panelist. "How to Talk about Race and Ethnicity in Antiquity." 2017 SBL/AAR Meeting, Boston, MA, November 18, 2017.

Invited Plenary Speaker. "Faith, Finances, and Educating Future Ministers: Biblical Perspectives and Contemporary Practices." Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers Conference. Pittsburgh, PA, October 12, 2017.

Panelist. "Black Collectors and Keepers of Tradition: An Ethiopian Pilgrimage, Biblical Scholarship and Public History," Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Cincinnati, OH, September 28, 2017.

Robert Brawley Lecture in Gospel Studies. "Black Collectors and Keepers of Tradition: Ethiopian Sources for the Study of the New Testament." McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2017.



Albritton Lecture. “Black Collectors and Keepers of Tradition: An Ethiopian Pilgrimage and Biblical Scholarship.” Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, March 14, 2017.

Church-wide Sunday School Lecture. “Black Collectors and Keepers of Tradition: A Story of Pilgrimage, Scholarship, and Faith.” Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), Carter G. Woodson Chapter, Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, DC, January 29, 2017.

“The Making and Meaning of Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics: A Response.” Panel reviewing *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse*. 2016 SBL/AAR Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 20, 2016.

“25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Committee on Underrepresented Minorities in the Profession (CUREMP): Reflections on the Journey.” 2016 SBL/AAR Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 19, 2016.

“What’s Trending in Biblical Studies.” Centennial Convocation. Howard University School of Divinity, Washington, DC, November 10, 2016.

“Equipping Pastors and Religious Leaders: Financial Literacy in Theological Education (The Case of Howard University School of Divinity).” Society for Financial Education and Professional Development, Atlanta, GA, October 17, 2016.

Conference Paper. “More than *Symbolic Blackness*: Hermeneutical Reflections on Ethnicity and the Interpretation of Luke-Acts.” SBL Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 22, 2015.

International Conference of the Global Alliance for Justice: Ethiopian Cause. “Welcome Remarks and Briefing on the Acts of Paul Manuscript.” Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, DC, September 26, 2015.

Conference Paper. “An Ethiopic Version of the Acts of Paul.” 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Ethiopian Studies. University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland, August 24-28, 2015.

Lecture. “Where Have All the Prophets Gone?” Breaking Down Walls of Social Inequality and Injustices Conference co-sponsored by the Howard School of Social Work and the National Association of Social Workers DC Metro Chapter, Blackburn Center, Howard University, Washington, DC, March 28, 2014.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Lecture. “Representations of Africa in the Bible,” Baobab Cultural Center, Rochester, NY, February 18, 2011.

Lecture. “Race, Ethnicity, and the Bible,” Belmont University, Nashville, TN, October 29, 2010.

Katie Geneva Cannon Lecture. “Teaching Empires, Interpreting Sacred Texts, Redefining Authority,” 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Katie Geneva Cannon Lecture and Interfaith Conference. Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Louisville, KY, September 12, 2010.

Lecture. “Non-Canonical Gospels: The Other Side of the Christian Story,” Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, March 7, 2010.

Panelist. “Women in Leadership,” Trailblazers Conference, Union Theological Seminary, February 25, 2010.

Lecture and conversation. Faculty Seminar on Race and Ethnicity, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, CA, October 14, 2009.

Annual Black Church History and Heritage Lecture. "The New Testament and Empire(s): Ancient Ethiopia Revisited." McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, March 16, 2009.

Lecture and conversation. "Womanist Theology." Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns, PC(USA). Meeting held at the United Nations Plaza Hotel in conjunction with United Nations International Women's Day, New York, NY, March 14, 2009.

Inaugural Lecture, "You Shall Be My Witnesses," Baptist Missionary Training School Chair in Biblical Studies. Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY, March 3, 2008.

Retrieving Texts, Recasting Traditions: A Symposium on Scriptures, Ethiopian Christian Origins, and 'World' Christianities (Rochester, NY; March 3-4, 2008). This symposium was designed to initiate critical dialogue and to explore how scholarship related to contemporary "global" realities of Christianity might inform the study of the New Testament and Christian origins.

Lecture, "How to Make the Most of your Fellowship Year: Reflections on Research, Writing, and Nurturing the Spirit." Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Meeting, New York, NY, April 13, 2007.

Conference Paper, "Redrawing the Boundaries of Early Christianity: The Case of the Axumite Empire and Its Sources." AAR Session co-sponsored by the World Christianity and African Religions Groups. AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, November 20, 2006.

Conference Paper, "Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament: A Report of Travel, Research, and Collaboration." Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, Nov. 4, 2006.

Sabbatic Leave (2005-2006). Sponsored by the Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Program. Identified, recovered, and analyzed Ge'ez sources, and assessed the utility of these sources for the study of the New Testament and Christian Origins. Attended 2005 Luce Consultation and other Luce Fellows Conferences in '05, '06, & '07. Traveled to collections housed at Howard University School of Divinity and the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library. Conducted research at the Catholic University of America. Attended "The Bible and Its African Roots Conference" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and traveled to religious and cultural sites in Axum, Lalibela, Gonder, and Bahar Dar (November 9-19, 2005). Submitted a report to the Association of Theological Schools, "Utilizing the Legacy of Ancient Ethiopians and Ethiopia for the Study of the New Testament and Christian Origins: A Report of Travel, Research, and Collaboration."

The James A. Gray Lecture Series. "Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament," Winston Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC, October 6, 2005.

Lecture. "Representations of Race and Gender," New York Theological Seminary, New York, NY, March 25, 2004.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture. "King's Biblical Ethic of Love, Peace, and Transformation," Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA, February 4, 2004.

Lecture. "The Spirituality of Howard Thurman," The New York Sabbatical Institute, New York, NY, January 12, 2004.

Lilly Faculty Research Grant (2003-2004). Pursued independent study of Ge'ez (ancient Ethiopic) and visited Ethiopic manuscript collections. Worked with several specialists in the field including John Huehnergard (Harvard University) and Edwina Wright (Union Theological

Seminary, NY). Attended Lilly Conference on Theological Research, Pittsburgh, PA, February 27-29, 2004.

Stuber Lecture. "Prolegomena to a Study of Ethiopic and Its Relevance for New Testament Interpretation." On the Occasion of the 2003 Spring Convocation, "A Voice in the Wilderness: Celebrating a Tradition of Excellence in Biblical Studies at CRCDS," Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY, April 27, 2003.

Research Fellow. Ford Foundation (1997-1998). Pursued research for my dissertation project entitled "Egyptians, Ethiopians, Blacks, and Blackness in Early Christian Literature: A Historical Taxonomy of Ethno-Political Rhetorics." Presented findings at annual Ford Fellows Conference.

### **SERVICE: IN THE ACADEMY**

#### ***Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)***

Member (1993-present)

Committee on the Role and Status of Women in the Profession (Student Member, 1993-1996)

Ideological Criticism Steering Committee (Member, 2000-2006); (Co-Chair, 2003-2006)

Committee on Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession (Member 2004-2010); (Student Assistant to the Chair of the Committee, 1992-1993)

Editorial Board Member, *Semeia Studies* (2011-2013; 2014-2016)

Council (2014-2016; renewed for a second term 2017-2019)

Finance Committee (2015-2018)

Co-Chair, Think Tank on "The Future of Biblical Studies" (2019-2020). Planning and organizing a conference to be held at Yale Divinity School, June 2020.

#### ***Association of Theological Schools (ATS)***

Black Student Debt Research Project (April-October 2019).

Peer-Learning Group (with New Brunswick Theological Seminary and Seattle University School of Theology), Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers (2018-2019).

Grant Administration (Lilly Endowment, Inc.), Economic Challenges Facing Future Ministers (2015-2018). Attended and presented information about biblical themes related to financial literacy during ATS Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (October 11-13, 2017); Attended and presented outcomes from HUSD's ECFFM grant during Lilly Endowment's National Summit on the Economics of Pastoral Ministry (January 16-18, 2019).

Educational Models and Practices of Theological Education Advisory Board (2015-2017)

Consultation of African American Presidents and Deans (2014, 2015)

Re-accreditation Site Visit Team, Vanderbilt University Divinity School (February 2015)

Committee on Race and Ethnicity (2014-2015)

Faculty Mid-Career Seminar Presenter (2013); New Deans School (December 2012)

Participated in various consultations and professional development seminars and conferences

#### ***Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion***

Early Career Faculty Workshop, Leadership Team (2016-2017)

Writing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Colloquium Participant (2010-2011)

Colloquy of African American, Asian American, and Latino/a Biblical Scholars (2004-2005), resulting in the publication of *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2009)

#### ***Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE)***

Panelist and Facilitator, "FTE Doctoral Fellows Conference." University of Notre Dame, June 11-13, 2004 & June 7-10, 2012; Vanderbilt University Divinity School, June 4-6, 2009

***Washington Theological Consortium (WTC)***

Moderator of the Academic Deans Council (2014-2017). Facilitate meetings and planning for the academic deans of the nine member schools of the Consortium. Develop joint ecumenical and interfaith programs, review course scheduling, academic policies, and other matters pertaining to the smooth sharing of resources among member schools.

***Theological Education Between The Times***

Hosted a consultation (February 2015) at the Howard University School of Divinity, which was part of a larger series of nation-wide gatherings designed to review and assess challenges and opportunities facing theological education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Served on Advisory Board.

***American Association of University Women (AAUW)***

AAUW 2017 International Fellowships Sub-Panel for Arts and Humanities (2016-2017)

**SERVICE: IN THE CHURCH**

***National Council of Churches (NCC)***

Bible Translation and Utilization Committee (January 2011-2012). Appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

***Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)***

**General Assembly**

Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (2008-2010).

Theology Committee of the Caribbean and North American Area Council of the World

Alliance of Reformed Churches (2003-2005). Appointed by the General Assembly

Committee on Ecumenical Relations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**National Capital Presbytery** (Minister Member: 2015-present)

Stated Supply Pastor, Education and Formation, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC (2018-present)

Preach and participate in various church services and events throughout the Presbytery. Active in clergy mentoring and fellowship programs and gatherings. Attended Professional

Boundaries Workshop (2016); Served on Commission for installation of new pastor at 15<sup>th</sup>

Street Presbyterian Church (April 22, 2018). Preacher, World Communion Service (2018)

Instructor, Bible Study Series, "Ancient Ethiopia and the New Testament," (Feb.-April 2019)

**Presbytery of Genesee Valley** (Minister Member: 2000-present)

Instructor, Certified Christian Educator Course – Biblical Interpretation (March 2010)

Member, Committee on Preparation for Ministry [CPM] (2007-2010)

Board Member, Presbyterian Foundation of Genesee Valley (2002-2005)

Keynote Speaker, "Violence against Women in Christian Literature," Hot Buttons Conference sponsored by the Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY, April 6, 2002

Instructor, Commissioned Lay Pastor Training Program (Fall 2001)

Member, Board of Trustees (2000-2001)

Preacher for several churches throughout the Genesee Valley Presbytery

**Presbytery of New York City** (Inquirer, Candidate, Minister Member 1991-1999)

Stated Supply Pastor, Laconia Community Presbyterian Church, Bronx, NY (1997-1999)

Ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, March 16, 1997

Planning Team Member, Candidate's Day, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, January 20, 1996

Preacher for several churches throughout the New York City Presbytery

Member, St. James Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), New York, NY (1992-1997)

Seminary Intern, St. James Presbyterian Church, New York, NY (1991-1992)

### ***Progressive National Baptist Convention***

#### **Congress on Education** (2010-2011)

Instructor, “The Theology of Paul,” [co-taught with Dr. James H. Evans]. Orlando, FL, August 2-4, 2010; Washington, DC, August 8-11, 2011.

### ***Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church***

#### **Debre Genat Medhane Alem Ethiopian Orthodox Church**, Temple Hills, MD

Lectured during “Early Ethiopian Christianity” course, November 2013

Lectured for Black History Month Programs, 2014-2016

Reviewed papers submitted by students taking a course on Ethiopian Christianity and participated in the award ceremony culminating the course (September 2016).

#### **Debre Libanos Monastery**, Shewa, Ethiopia

Opening Remarks (January 11, 2016) in gratitude for the opportunity to return Tweed MS150 to the monastery. Planned and Co-led a delegation from Howard University School of Divinity to Ethiopia (January 9-22, 2016). In addition to returning the manuscript, we also met with religious and educational leaders of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Trinity Theological Seminary, the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, and Addis Ababa University; toured the religious and historical sites of Addis Ababa, Axum, and Lalibela.

### ***Other Denominations [representative sample]***

Preacher and Instructor. Shiloh Baptist Church, Washington, DC (2014-2017). Participated in worship, prayer, Bible study, and other instructional leadership for a number of different services and programs of the church, including the Pastor’s 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Deacon’s Ministry, Deaconess Ministry’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Debutante Program (Bible Study), Lenten Season Messages, New Members Class, etc.

Instructor. Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA (May 2018). Biblical Institute, “Womanist and Liberation Readings of the Book of James.”

Instructor. Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA (January 2018). Biblical Teach-In, “Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse.”

Instructor. Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, VA (March 2017). Taught Introduction to the New Testament for the Ministers-in-Training Program.

Lecturer. “Still Standing on the Wall: John 10:10.” Church World Service, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Washington, DC, April 16, 2015.

Preacher. People’s Congregational UCC Church. HUSD Sunday. Washington, DC, March 22, 2015.

Instructor. “Independent Study – Biblical Exegesis,” Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, Rochester, NY, Fall 2009.

Preacher. Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, Installation Service, Christ Church, Rochester, NY, October 4, 2008.

Lecturer. Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, DC (September 7, 2007). Lectured on the book of “James” and “Biblical Scholarship as an Act of Faith” during the Associate Ministers Retreat.

Preacher. World Day of Prayer Worship Service, sponsored by the Rochester Chapter of Church Women United and the Greater Rochester Council of Churches, March 7, 2003.

Preacher, Bible Study Instructor, and Workshop Facilitator for various Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Episcopal churches throughout the Rochester area (1999-2012).

Seminary Intern. Baptist Church of the Redeemer, Brooklyn, NY (1990-1991).  
Assisted with church administration and educational programs, responsible for financial record keeping, taught Bible study classes, and organized a summer “Family” Vacation Bible School.

**SERVICE: IN THE COMMUNITY [representative sample]**

Volunteer with various local churches and community organizations in the Washington metropolitan area.

Book Discussion. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible*. Union Theological Seminary Alumni Association, Washington, DC Chapter, May 5, 2018.

Invocation and Benediction. Rochester Urban League Black Scholars Program, Rochester, NY, June 15, 2016.

Instructor. Rochester Boy Scouts of America, Taught a series of classes for cub and boy scouts in Troop #169; developed a program fulfilling the requirements for the Religious Merit Badge (2011-2012).

Lecturer. “Spirituality and Leadership,” African American Leadership Development Program, Urban League of Rochester, September 13, 2011.

Expedition Leader. World of Inquiry School #58, Rochester, NY, August 21, 2007. Led a team of six elementary school teachers on an exploration and tour of a Rochester neighborhood and facilitated dialogue about the opportunities and challenges facing inner-city youth.

Panelist. “Sistahs, Can We Talk?” Annual conference for teens sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), Rochester, NY, October 28, 2000.

Radio Panelist (with Rev. Paul Smith). “Howard Thurman,” NPR local radio broadcast, This discussion was in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration in honor of Dr. Thurman, sponsored by the CRCDS Program of Black Church Studies, November 18, 1999.

Workshop Leader. “Race and Rhetoric,” African American Leadership Development Program, United Way of Greater Rochester (1999-2001).

**FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

Unitas Distinguished Alumni/ae Award, Union Theological Seminary (2015)  
Womanist Legend Award, Black Religious Scholars Group (2012)  
Henry Luce III Fellows in Theology Program, Association of Theological Schools (2005-2006)  
Lilly Faculty Research Expense Grant, Association of Theological Schools (2003-2004)  
Dissertation Fellowship for Minorities, Ford Foundation (1997-1998)  
Academic Scholarship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Fund for Graduate Education (1993-1999)  
African American Doctoral Scholar, Fund for Theological Education (1992-1997)  
Doctoral Tuition Fellowship, Union Theological Seminary (1992-1995)  
George Andover Taylor Academic Scholarship, Union Theological Seminary (1989-1992)  
Academic Scholarship, Atlanta University (1984-1986)

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**