

Rev. Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert

Rev. Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert is a nationally recognized scholar on African American preaching. Currently serving as Dean and Professor of Homiletics at Howard University School of Divinity, Dr. Gilbert has garnered national recognition for his academic expertise. His journey towards his esteemed position begins with his bachelor's degree in political science from Baylor University in 1996. Driven by a profound calling, he pursued further education at Princeton Theological Seminary, where he earned both his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Practical Theology, specializing in homiletics.

As an ordained Baptist minister, Dr. Gilbert has enriched congregations across various regions including Texas, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Kenya. In 2006, he found his professional home at Howard University, where he continues to inspire and educate future generations of ministers and scholars.

Dr. Gilbert's scholarly contributions extend beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his prolific writing and public engagements. He is the author of four influential books: *Exodus Preaching: Crafting Sermons about Justice and Hope*, *A Pursued Justice: Black Preaching from the Great Migration to Civil Rights*, *The Journey and Promise of African American Preaching*, and *Just Living: Meditations for Engaging our Life and Times*. His insights on Black preaching, civil rights, and social justice have been featured in various esteemed platforms including PBS NewsHour, Sojourners, Word & Way, Religion Dispatches, and The Conversation.

In 2011, Dr. Gilbert founded *The Preaching Project*, a transformative ministry dedicated to empowering ministers for effective service within African American churches and communities. Furthermore, he served as the Black Congregations Resource Center's founding director at Howard University. In 2024, his inaugural year as dean, Dr. Gilbert was awarded a \$1.25 million *Compelling Preaching Initiative* grant to launch programs on African American preaching at Howard and a \$60,000 technology grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to upgrade classrooms for HyFlex online learning. He is the General Editor for the forthcoming Preaching, Theology, and Culture book series by Fortress Press, and is a board member of the Association of Theological Schools. Additionally, Dr. Gilbert is a respected member of the editorial board of *Homiletic*, a peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Academy of Homiletics, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to academia and social justice, Dr. Gilbert was honored with induction into the Martin Luther King Jr. International Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College in 2022 and a recipient of the Diamond Award for Excellence in Leadership from the Not Alone Foundation, Inc. Most recently, Dr. Gilbert was named the 2024 McClendon Scholar-in-Residence at New York Avenue Presbyterian in Washington, DC and Baylor University Alumni Alliance's Robert L. Gilbert Distinguished Alumni Award. Through his multifaceted roles as a scholar, preacher, educator, and community leader, Dr. Kenyatta R. Gilbert exemplifies a commitment to excellence, equity, and empowerment.