

# **New Fire in New Places:** Reconceptualizing Pentecostalism and the Black Church

JULY 15–19, 2024



BLACK THEOLOGY  
AND  
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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# WELCOME

Welcome to the 2024 Black Theology and Leadership Institute (BTLI)! We are thrilled about your participation in this annual gathering of scholars, pastors, theologians, community leaders, influencers, and students. Over the years, BTLI has distinguished itself as a place of deep theological reflection for a rich diversity of individuals committed to the work of the Black Church. Your presence here is evidence that we have once again achieved our desired outcome. We anticipate that our time together this week will be transformative and are confident that you will contribute uniquely and powerfully to this year's Institute.

Our theme this year is: **New Fire in New Places: Reconceptualizing Pentecostalism and the Black Church.** We will explore the vibrant landscape of Pentecostalism and its profound influence on the Black Church, delving into its varied expressions, intricate evolution, and unexpected intersections with Black faith traditions. While some limit their understanding of Pentecostalism to denominational confines, African American religious experience is increasingly impacted by the transformative power of theological thought as influenced by pentecostal theology and praxis as religious expression, liturgy, preaching, and theological reflection increasingly show evidence of pentecostal influence. This week, we seek to explore this influence in its full complexity.

By the end of this week, we hope you will examine what the Pentecostal tradition has to offer the religious communities you serve and how it invites you and your congregation to re-imagine the boundary-defying possibilities of new formulations of the experience of the work of the Holy Spirit in your community. Or perhaps you will use this time to reflect on what it might mean to be open to the movement and work of the Spirit in your religious community.

Our sincerest hope is that when you leave, you will be encouraged to live, preach, and serve the community in which you are placed, not as it currently exists but as it can be! From the morning lectures to the practitioner-led panels to your cohort meetings with BTLI fellows, may every encounter inform and illuminate, excite, and encourage your imagination for the work of ministry.

**Rev. David G. Latimore, PhD, DMin**

*Director – Black Theology and Leadership Institute*

*Director – Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies*

*Princeton Theological Seminary*

# SCHEDULE



| Daily Schedule          | Monday, July 15   | Tuesday, July 16  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| 8:00 a.m.               | Breakfast   | Breakfast   |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  | <b>Welcome</b><br><b>Morning Lecture:</b> Dr. Keri Day<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>   | <b>Morning Lecture:</b> Rev. Dr. David Douglas Daniels<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>   |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | <b>Panel:</b> Black Church & Climate<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>   | <b>Lecture:</b> Rev. Dr. Antipas Harris<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>  |
| 12:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  | Lunch   | Lunch   |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.   | <b>Cohort Meetings</b><br>Cohort 1 – <i>Coopers</i><br>Cohort 2 – <i>Clark</i><br>Cohort 3 – <i>Theron Room</i><br>Cohort 4 – <i>Library 1010</i> | <b>Cohort Meetings</b><br>Cohort 1 – <i>Coopers</i><br>Cohort 2 – <i>Clark</i><br>Cohort 3 – <i>Theron Room</i><br>Cohort 4 – <i>Library 1010</i> |
| 4:00 p.m.               | Period of Personal Reflection   | Period of Personal Reflection   |
| 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.   | <b>Opening Dinner:</b> Rev. Dr. Timothy Adkins-Jones<br><i>(Mackay Dining Room)</i>   | <b>Dinner:</b> On Your Own  |
| 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.   |   | <b>Worship Speaker:</b> Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner<br><i>(Chapel)</i>  |



| Daily Schedule          | Wednesday, July 17  | Thursday, July 18   | Friday, July 19  |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| 8:00 a.m.               | Breakfast   | Breakfast   | Breakfast  |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.  | <b>Betsey Stockton Lecture:</b><br>Rev. Dr. Leslie Callahan<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>  | <b>Morning Lecture:</b><br>Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>  | <b>Morning Lecture:</b><br>Rev. Dr. Eric Williams<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i> |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | <b>Workshop:</b> Exploring Furthering Your Theological Education<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>   | <b>Book Club Conversation:</b><br>Dr. Ivan Hartsfield<br><i>(Stuart 6)</i>  | Closing Luncheon<br><i>(Mackay Dining Room)</i>                        |
| 12:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  | Lunch   | Lunch   |  |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.   | <b>Cohort Meetings</b><br>Cohort 1 – <i>Coopers</i><br>Cohort 2 – <i>Clark</i><br>Cohort 3 – <i>Theron Room</i><br>Cohort 4 – <i>Library 1010</i> | <b>Cohort Meetings</b><br>Cohort 1 – <i>Coopers</i><br>Cohort 2 – <i>Clark</i><br>Cohort 3 – <i>Theron Room</i><br>Cohort 4 – <i>Library 1010</i> |  |
| 4:00 p.m.               | Period of Personal Reflection   | Period of Personal Reflection   |  |
| 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.   | <b>Dinner:</b> On Your Own  | <b>Dinner:</b> On Your Own  |  |
| 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.   | <b>Worship Speaker:</b><br>Rev. Maria Norales Crompton<br><i>(Chapel)</i>   | <b>Worship Speaker:</b><br>Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson<br><i>(Chapel)</i>  |  |

# PANELS

## The Black Church & Climate Change – Derrick Weston

Climate crisis has intensified into the greatest threat faced by humanity. The planet, the only living space we have as human beings, is becoming increasingly hotter, with weather patterns become more and more unpredictable and destructive than ever before – all because of capitalism, consumption and insatiable use of fossil fuels. The devastating impacts of climate crisis are resulting in mass destruction and mass casualty events.

The climate crisis is also, arguably, the top priority challenge and issue for Black communities everywhere, especially in the United States. While Black communities in the United States are the hardest hit by climate crisis impacts, there is no real urgent response or conversation happening in our media or our churches. This panel will empower participants to go back to their congregations better equipped with research, resources and newfound relationships to help them deal with what once seemed like complex questions. Black churches will be able to start a new movement that won't only save our community, but will save the only planet we have to live on.



**Derrick Weston**

Derrick Weston is a writer, filmmaker, podcaster, speaker, and educator whose most recent work has focused on the intersection of food and faith. After two decades of being a pastor and community organizer, Derrick is a strong believer in the potential of local congregations to enact change in their communities. Derrick received his B.A. in film studies from the University of Pittsburgh and his Masters of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He also has a certification in health ministry from Wesleyan Theological Seminary and was a part of the Re:Generate fellowship on food, faith, and ecology through Wake Forest Divinity School. Derrick is the co-author of the book *The Just Kitchen: Invitations to Sustainability, Cooking, Connection, and Celebration* and has written numerous articles for several publications. He and his wife Shannon have four children and live outside of Baltimore, Maryland.

## Exploring Furthering Your Theological Education

For anyone considering additional theological study or who may have individuals in the organizations you represent who may be looking at options for further study, this discussion will offer an introduction to the wealth of formal residential/hybrid programs offered by the Seminary's degree granting programs. Equally important, for those who may be seeking additional theological education options but are not in a position to consider our more formal residential programs, you will be introduced to the breath of options available through the Continuing Education programs offered by the Seminary.

### Panelists



**Abigail Russert**  
Associate Dean of Continuing Education  
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**Lydia Tembo**  
Director of Admissions  
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**Johnna Herrick-Phelps**  
Associate Dean for Online  
and Digital Learning  
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## Book Club Discussion – Rev. Dr. Ivan Hartsfield

Join us for an engaging book discussion with Dr. Ivan Hartsfield on his latest work, *Sanctified Imagination: Christian Holiness in Afro-Pentecostal Tradition*. In this thought-provoking book, Dr. Hartsfield delves into a rich and dynamic examination of the theological and cultural dimensions of Afro-Pentecostalism. Dr. Hartsfield brings to light the unique ways in which African American Pentecostal communities engage with the concept of sanctification, blending scriptural interpretation, spiritual practices, and cultural expressions. The book invites readers to consider how sanctified imagination fuels the pursuit of holiness, justice, and community transformation. This discussion promises to be an enriching experience for anyone interested in theology, Pentecostalism, and the vibrant interplay between faith and culture. Whether you are a scholar, pastor, student, or layperson, you will find valuable insights and inspiration in Dr. Hartsfield's work.



**Rev. Dr. Ivan Hartsfield**

# HOSPITALITY & ACCESSIBILITY

## Hospitality



**QUIET  
SPACE**

Need some space to breathe?  
Enjoy the prayer garden  
(next to the chapel on left).



**INTERNET  
ACCESS**

WiFi is available at  
*Seminary-Guests*  
Password is  
*SeminaryInternet1812*



**DIETARY  
NEEDS**

Group meals and snacks are provided based on allergen and special diet information collected through registration. If you need assistance with a food concern, please don't hesitate to make a special request.

## Building Accessibility

### Mackay Campus Center

- Accessible entry ramp with rails located at the right exterior wall. Motorized door with button.
- Accessible parking available in the lot adjacent to and behind building along College road, with incline to building.
- Accessible, all-gender restroom located in the front lobby.
- Motorized lift available for access to auditorium. See student for assistance.

### Seminary Chapel

- Accessible entrance with motorized lift behind left exterior staircase. Balcony has stair-only access.
- Limited accessible parking available along main Seminary quadrangle.
- Accessible restrooms on basement level across from motorized lift.
- In worship, chapel assistants can provide assisted-hearing devices, seat cushions.

### Wright Library

- Accessible front main entrance facing
- Mercer Street, with motorized door button at far left.
- Accessible parking adjacent to library along right exterior wall.

- Accessible restrooms in left Entry Hallway.
- Lactation room available next to lower level restroom along right interior wall.
- All gender bathrooms – 2nd floor  
*When exiting the elevator or stairs, turn left and proceed to the end of the short hallway, then take an immediate left into a long hallway.* These private, all-gender restrooms are located in this area on each floor of the building.

### Stuart Hall

- Accessible entry ramp with rails located at right exterior wall, with motorized door button.
- Accessible parking along street in front of building.
- Accessible, all-gender restroom in basement level, along entry corridor.
- Elevator located to the left of central staircase (access to all levels).

### Scheide Hall

- Accessible front main entrance with motorized door button on right hand wall.
- Accessible, all-gender restrooms adjacent to elevator (first and second floors).
- Elevator located on left wall past foyer (access to first and second floors).



# LECTURERS



## Rev. Dr. David Latimore

Director for the Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. David G. Latimore serves as the Director for the Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Latimore has over twenty years of pastoral experience. He most recently served as the sixth Senior Pastor of the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He has also served as Senior Pastor at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church (Joliet, IL), the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church (Gainesville, FL), the Southern Union Baptist Church (St. Louis, MO), and has also served the First Calvary Baptist Church (Durham, NC) as Senior Associate Minister. Rev. Dr. Latimore was licensed into ministry by Bishop Paul S. Morton at Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church (New Orleans, LA).

Rev. Dr. Latimore graduated from Harvard University with an A.B. in Economics and received his Master's of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity. He received his Doctorate of Ministry in Homiletics from McCormick Theological Seminary. His doctoral thesis, *Liberating Lazarus: The Homiletical Mediation of Liberation for Congregant and Community*, was awarded the John Randall Hunt Prize for Outstanding D.Min. Thesis and Academic Record. Additionally, Rev. Dr. Latimore received his Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago Divinity School. His dissertation focused on the influence of the endogenous theology of neoliberalism on the ecclesiology and praxiology of African-American religious institutions.

Before seminary, Rev. Dr. Latimore enjoyed a successful career in investment management and economic development. Most recently, he served as President and CEO of the Initiative for A Competitive Inner City (ICIC), an economic research firm focused on economic development in America's inner cities. He has served in several executive management positions in investment management firms across the nation and began his career in management consulting with Bain and Company. Rev. Dr. Latimore has faithfully served his community, providing leadership to several organizations, including as a founding member of the African-American Clergy Coalition, former Chaplain of the River Valley Juvenile Detention Center, and Chair of a local chapter of the Black Chamber of Commerce. He has also served as an Adjunct Instructor at McCormick Theological Seminary, University of Toronto, Moody Bible Institute, Dominican University, University of Chicago, and a Faculty Fellow at Belmont University.

Rev. Dr. Latimore is blessed to be the husband of Min. Tammie Brown Latimore for over twenty-eight years and the father of Grace, Sydney, David, II, Lauren, and Nina.



### **Rev. Dr. David Douglas Daniels**

Henry Winters Luce Professor of World Christianity at  
McCormick Theological Seminary

David Douglas Daniels III is the Henry Winters Luce Professor of World Christianity at McCormick Theological Seminary where he joined the faculty in 1987 and the *Professor Extraordinarius* at the Institute for Gender Studies, University of South Africa. He has taught as an occasional professor at seminaries in the Philippines and Ghana.

Daniels earned his Ph.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary-NYC. He has authored over sixty scholarly book chapters, academic journal articles, and general essays, publishing on topics related to the history of the Black Holiness movement, Black Pentecostalism, Black Church, Global Pentecostalism, and African Christians in 16th century Europe. He has served on U.S. research projects funded by the Lilly Endowment, Luce Foundation, Pew Charitable Trust, and Templeton Foundation. He has also participated on funded-research projects in Germany and Norway.

Daniels has served on the various editorial boards, including being an associate editor of the *Journal of World Christianity*. He has delivered public lectures at colleges and seminaries in the United States and in over 15 other countries. His academic guild involvement has included serving as president of the Society for Pentecostal Studies and on steering committees of the American Academy of Religion: African American Religious History Group (co-chair), Evangelical Theology Group (co-chair), Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements Consultation, and History of Christianity Section.



**Rev. Dr. Leslie D. Callahan**  
St. Paul Baptist Church  
Senior Pastor

Since 2009, the Reverend Leslie D. Callahan, Ph.D., has served as senior pastor of the St. Paul's Baptist Church. She is the fifth pastor and first woman to serve in that role in the church's 134-year history.

Dr. Callahan earned the Bachelor of Arts in Religion from Harvard University, the Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Religion from Princeton University. She was ordained in 1997 at Judson Memorial Church and served congregations in Princeton, NJ, and the Philadelphia suburbs.

Dr. Callahan has served on the faculty of New York Theological Seminary (NYTS) as Assistant Professor of Modern Church History and African American Studies. Prior to her time at NYTS, she was a member of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania as assistant professor of religious studies. She has also taught courses for Eden Theological Seminary and New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

In addition to her ministry and scholarly pursuits, Dr. Callahan enjoys traveling, golfing, reading, movies, and sports. She is also an active member of the Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Callahan's chief joy is that she is the proud mother of Annabelle Inez.

Dr. Callahan's favorite scripture is Psalm 27:4: One thing have I desired of the LORD; that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in God's temple.



## Dr. Keri Day

Professor of Constructive Theology and  
African American Religion

Keri Day is Professor of Constructive Theology and African American Religion at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, NJ. She earned a B.S. in Political Science and Economics from Tennessee State University, an M.A. in Religion and Ethics from Yale University Divinity School, and her Ph.D. in Religion from Vanderbilt University. Her teaching and research interests are in womanist/feminist theologies, social critical theory, cultural studies, economics, and Afro-Pentecostalism. She has authored four academic books, *Unfinished Business: Black Women, The Black Church, and the Struggle to Thrive in America* (2012); *Religious Resistance to Neoliberalism: Womanist and Black Feminist Perspectives* (2015); *Notes of a Native Daughter: Testifying in Theological Education* (2021); and her most recent book, *Azusa Reimagined: A Radical Vision of Religious and Democratic Belonging*, (2022). She has also been recognized by NBC News as one of six black women at the center of gravity in theological education in America. She is a fourth generation preacher in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC).

Alongside her scholarship, she also engages public policy leaders. She has participated in White House briefings in Washington D.C. to discuss issues related to economic policy, religious freedom, faith-based initiatives, human rights efforts, and peace building efforts around the world. She has been a guest political commentator on KERA/NPR, DFW/FOX News, and Huffpost Live on issues related to faith and politics. She has written for the New York Daily News, The Christian Century, The Feminist Wire, and The Huffington Post.



**Dr. Ivan Hartsfield**  
Thrive Christian Communities  
Senior Pastor

Ivan is a dynamic force in the realms of pastoral leadership, academia, and consulting, whose career spans over three decades. With a heart dedicated to service, Ivan has made his mark both nationally and internationally through various roles including church planter, senior pastor, and overseer. His current venture as Co-Founder and Senior Pastor of Thrive Christian Ministries in Surprise, Arizona, showcases his commitment to fostering a thriving faith-based community. This recent church plant embodies his vision for a vibrant Christian life that embraces the Gospel and embodies the values of the Kingdom of God in today's world.

In the academic sphere, Ivan's passion for education and mentorship has enriched minds as a dean and adjunct professor, contributing significantly to the development of future leaders. His recent appointment as an adjunct professor in the College of Theology at Grand Canyon University is a testament to his enduring dedication to theological education. Ivan's first monograph, "Sanctified Imagination: Christian Holiness in Afro-Pentecostal Tradition," published by Wipf & Stock in 2023, marks a significant contribution to religious scholarship.

Beyond the pulpit and the podium, Ivan excels in the corporate world as a distinguished business leader, executive coach, and management consultant. Equipped with a diverse educational background, he holds a BS in Computer Science from Winthrop University, an MBA from Northwestern University, an MDiv from Northern Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Systematic Theology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Ivan's personal life is anchored by his loving wife Cheri, with whom he recently embarked on a new chapter by relocating to Chandler, Arizona. Together for 33 years, their partnership has been blessed with five children, Ian, Brianna, Immanuel, Isaac, and Charity.



**Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems**  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
Alumna

Rev. 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 written widely for academics and general audiences on topics of Christian faith, prophetic religion, human rights, the black church, women's spirituality, biblical justice, and human sexuality. Rev. Dr. Renita Weems earned a Ph.D. degree at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1989 making her the first African American woman to earn a doctorate in Old Testament Studies. She is the first Black woman to deliver the Yale University Lyman Beecher Lecture (2008). Dr. Weems is featured in *"Black Stars: African American Religious Leaders"* (2008), a collection of biographies of some of the most important Black Religious Leaders over the last 200 hundred years, including such impressive figures as Adam Clayton Powell, Elijah Muhammad, Sojourner Truth, Howard Thurman, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In addition to being a former professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School (1987–2004), Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems, a scholar of Christian scriptures, has taught at Spelman College (Atlanta, GA), Howard University Divinity School (Washington, DC) and Memphis Theological Seminary (Memphis, TN). She grew up in Atlanta, GA where she attended Atlanta public schools. She obtained her B.A. degree from Wellesley College in Wellesley, MA. She worked for a brief time after college as a public accountant and a stockbroker for Merrill Lynch.

Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems is currently (2024 academic year) the Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholars Group Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX.

Ordained in 1985 Dr. Weems is an itinerant minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rev. Dr. Renita J. Weems lives in Nashville with her family.



## Rev. Dr. Eric Williams

Assistant Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies  
Director – Office of Black Church Studies

An ordained minister of the Church of God in Christ, Eric Lewis Williams holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications and Sociology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies from the McCormick Theological Seminary, the Master of Divinity degree from Duke University and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Religious Studies from the University of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom.

Williams has taught theology, history and African American Studies at several institutions including: Western Theological Seminary; Ashland Theological Seminary (Detroit); Iowa State University; Shaw University; Virginia Union University; Boston College; and Harvard University. In addition to his teaching experience, for nearly seven years, Williams served as the Curator of Religion for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, D.C. In July of 2023, leaving the museum, Williams joined the teaching faculty of the Duke University School of Divinity in Durham NC. At Duke University, Williams serves as Assistant Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies, and Director of the Office of Black Church Studies.

Williams' current research examines the meaning of religion within African American history and culture, and the role and influences of African religions within the Atlantic world. Williams is a co-editor of the *T&T Clark Handbook of African American Theology* and is currently completing a manuscript which explores theological significations in African American Pentecostal thought.

Williams' research and studies have taken him to the continents of Africa, South America, Europe, extensively throughout the continental United States, Mexico, and to several islands of the Caribbean. Williams considers himself a transatlantic commuter, a collector of words, and an emergent jazzman in the world of ideas.

# WORSHIP LEADERS



## **Rev. Dr. Timothy Adkins-Jones**

Bethany Baptist Church, Senior Pastor

Union Theological Seminary, Assistant Professor of Homiletics

Rev. Timothy Levi Adkins-Jones is the Pastor of the historic Bethany Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey. A son of the church, Rev. Adkins-Jones was led to faith in Christ at the early by his grandfather the Rev. Leroy Jones at Pilgrim Journey Baptist Church in his hometown of Richmond, Virginia. Before being called to Bethany, Rev. Adkins-Jones faithfully led congregations in Massachusetts and Connecticut, building a young legacy of community activism and Christian service. He gladly serves as part of the leadership team for the New Jersey Black Multi-Faith Alliance and the Clergy Caucus for Faith in New Jersey, a non-partisan, multi-faith organization seeking social and economic change through policy and relationships.

Embodying the best of the Black preacher-scholar tradition, Rev. Adkins-Jones has a PhD in Practical Theology with a Homiletics concentration at Boston University. He also holds a BA in Psychology from Amherst College, and an MDiv from the Boston University School of Theology. A sought-out lecturer and speaker across the nation, Rev. Adkins-Jones previously taught courses in homiletics and polity at Yale Divinity School. He was featured on the "For Your Soul Sunday" Broadcast on SiriusXM UrbanView, and continues to serve his alma mater Amherst College as the Graduate Fellow for the Hermenia T. Gardner Christian Worship Series, a bi-semester worship celebration of the Black Church tradition.

Rev. Adkins-Jones is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He is also the proud husband of Dr. Amey Victoria Adkins-Jones and the father of four loving and amusing souls, Sofia, Ezekiel, Isabella, and Judah Nwà who keep him young and busy.





## Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson

Assistant Teaching Professor of Preaching and Practical Theology  
Wake Forest University, School of Divinity

Melva L. Sampson is a professor, preacher, and pastor. She is Assistant Teaching Professor in the Practice of Preaching and Practical Theology at Wake Forest University School of Divinity. Her ministerial credentials span across the Baptist and Presbyterian USA denominations.

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. Dr. Melva's published sermons appear in the final collection of Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell's *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Edition and The Sky is Crying: Race, Class, and Natural Disaster*.

Popular courses taught by Dr. Sampson include *From Jarena Lee to Cardi B: Womanist Proclamation, The Afrocentric Christian Idea, Reparations as a Practical Theological Mode, and Podcasts, Vlogs, and Livestreams: Proclamation in the Digital Age*.

She is a leading practitioner in digital Black religion and is the creator of *The Pink Robe Chronicles*<sup>™</sup> an online spiritual gathering that circumvents interlaced oppressive religious structures, doctrines, and theologies by utilizing womanist and Afrocentric/Afrofuturist values of resistance, recovery, and reflection to curate a liberated and transformative faith-centered community of practice. Her book under the same name will be due out in 2025 under 1517 Media. Since 2016 Dr. Melva has livestreamed over 300 digital sermons and engaged thousands across Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram. Her words and work are featured in *Essence* (online), *The Griot*, *The Presbyterian Outlook*, and *The National Catholic Reporter* and *The Pink Robe Chronicles* are the subject of a half-dozen published scholarly articles. She is the co-founder of the 1Love Festival, a festival in Winston-Salem, NC that centers and celebrates African diasporan history and culture through art, innovation, entrepreneurship, and wellness ([www.1lovethefestival.com](http://www.1lovethefestival.com)).

In October 2022, The Smithsonian National Museum for African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) acquired and accessioned artifacts from Pink Robe Chronicles into the museum collection. The digital files consist of four Pink Robe Chronicles (sermons) *Go Back and Get It; Fight the Power; Press, Prune and Praise;* and *Wrestling with God*. This collection is included in the museum's archives which host more than 50k artifacts and will be used in its research and exhibitions. Her commentary is also featured in the museum's first full length documentary *gOD-Talk* released in October 2023. The film explores the lives of seven Black millennials (Atheist, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Spiritualist, and African Traditional Religion) and their challenges and discoveries with faith in the 21st century.

Dr. Melva earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from Virginia Union University; a Master of Arts in Mass Communication from Howard University; a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Emory University; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religion with a concentration in Homiletics from the Graduate Division of Religion, Emory University.

# THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE



**Rev. Maria Norales Crompton**  
Elmwood United Presbyterian Church  
Senior Pastor

Reverend Maria Crompton is the first woman to serve as the Senior Pastor of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in East Orange, NJ. She is a dynamic preacher, teacher, sought after speaker and workshop facilitator.

Reverend Crompton received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and English from Drew University, the Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and the Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary.

Reverend Crompton is called to empower the people of God through prophetic leadership. She is the Vice-President of the East Orange Clergy Association, which allows her to partner with church and community leaders. Rev. Crompton is also a board member for Circle of Sacred Fire, a preaching intensive for women of color in ministry and a Mentor for RISE Together National Mentorship Network for Women of Color in Ministry.

Reverend Crompton has been afforded the opportunity to serve in a variety of ministry contexts including, Bethel Baptist Church in Orange, where she was the first woman and youngest minister licensed, First Congregational Christian Church in Irvington and Middle Collegiate Church in New York City.

Reverend Crompton holds dual ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA). When it comes to ministry, Reverend Crompton believes that like Esther, God has placed her in position for such a time as this.

Reverend Crompton is married to Andre Crompton and they have three children, Nilah Marie, Andre Joshua and Noah Alexander.



**Rev. Dr. Antipas Harris**  
Urban Renewal Center  
President

Dr. Harris is a public theologian, leader, scholar, author, and public speaker. He is passionately engaged in reimagining the role of faith in the public square and forming future leaders for the church and the world. His leadership experience spans theological education, the church, and the community. He understands truth, love, justice, grace, and mercy as central to Christian identity and apex for effective public witness.

Contemporary leadership that bridges the faith community and society requires creative approaches for long-term positive impact. Harris' colleagues find him creative, energetic, personable, collaborative, and hard-working. His unique blend of servant and transformational leadership style, skills for creating partnerships, and experience in intercultural, ecumenical, and interfaith engagement are critical to Harris' notable leadership. He has received numerous awards for his leadership from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, and Inside Business, to name a few.

Harris earned his BA in Religion and Creative Music Technology from LaGrange College, MDiv from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, STM from Yale Divinity School, DMin from Boston University and a PhD in Practical Theology from St. Thomas University.



**Dr. Carlton David Johnson**  
Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)  
Associate Director of Theology, Formation and Evangelism

Carlton David Johnson is a native of Atlanta GA.

He received his undergraduate degree from Emory University in English with a concentration in literature from the African diaspora. Following a 25-year career in Project, Operation and Client Services Management, Carlton returned to the academy to receive the Master of Divinity at Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and, more recently, the Master of Theology (Homiletics) from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His area of research is the impact of African American preaching on grief and mourning.

Throughout his life, he has maintained an intimate concern for the disenfranchised, especially young African-American males. He has worked in the outreach ministries of the church and given himself to mentorship with such organizations as the United States National Guard Youth Challenge Academy and his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Carlton serves as the Associate Director of Theology, Formation and Evangelism for the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). Carlton also serves as a Chaplain for both Children's Hospital of Atlanta and Grady Health Systems. At Grady, he developed a specialty in Emergency and Trauma Initiated Palliative Pastoral Care. He previously served as Chief Operations Officer for Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

Carlton is an associate minister at the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church in Lithonia, GA. There he works with the Ujima Men's Fellowship, Kijana Boys Rites of Passage, Fawohodie Ministry to the Incarcerated and their families and serves in Music Ministry. He is a board member of the First Afrikan Presbyterian Church Community Development Corporation, the Presbyterian Pastoral Care Network and NEXT CHURCH (Strategic Planning Team). He is a regular contributor to the Presbyterian Outlook monthly magazine.

Carlton and his wife Cara split their time between Atlanta, GA and Louisville, KY.



## Rev. Dr. J. Lawrence Turner

Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Senior Pastor

A pastor, prolific preacher, teacher, social justice advocate and author, Dr. J. Lawrence Turner has devoted his life to meaningful ministry which has made immeasurable impacts across the nation for 25 years. For the past 10 years, he has faithfully served as the Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Memphis, TN, the largest congregation in the Disciples of Christ denomination.

He is a native of Nashville, Tennessee, and 2003 magna cum laude graduate of Fisk University, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School and was awarded the prestigious H.H. Tweedy Prize for exceptional promise for pastoral leadership. Dr. Turner earned the Doctor of Ministry degree in Transformative Leadership at the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York.

His vision and leadership extend beyond the pulpit and pew. He currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer for the Board of Directors of the National Action Network, Board Member of Church Health, President of the Yale Divinity School Alumni Board, member of the Yale Divinity School Dean's Advisory Counsel, and member of the Mission Integration Committee of Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare. He serves as the bibliographer for the Conference of National Black Churches Annual National Consultation, is a member of the Advisory Team of the Issachar Church Growth and Development Conference, and a 2021 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers Inductee at Morehouse College.

Bridging his passion for faith and social justice, Dr. Turner founded and serves as President of The Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis, whose mission is to unite and empower the Black Church as a catalyst for social justice. This organization played a vital role in the Reimagining Policing in Memphis Initiative. Dr. Turner also serves as chair of the African American Clergy Collective of Tennessee that seeks to engage clergy organizations and state legislators across the state.

Dr. Turner has presented to audiences at Fisk University, Yale University, LeMoyné-Owen College, Tugaloo College, National Action Network; appeared on CNN, PBS, BBC, MSNBC, Jack & Jill of America, Inc.; interviewed with *The New York Times*, *The Tennessean*, *The Tri-State Defender*, *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, and Yale Divinity School *Reflections*. He is the author/facilitator of a bible study on the book of Colossians entitled, *Above All Circumstances*. His published work can also be found in the *African American Pulpit Journal*.

Dr. Turner's greatest joy, pride, and peace is that of his family. He is married to his best friend, Bridgett N. Turner, Esq. Together they are the parents of two bright, beautiful children, Josiah Lawrence, and Savannah Grace.



**Rev. Dr. Oscar Williams, Jr.**  
Executive Leadership Team Member  
Jakes Divinity School

Dr. Oscar Williams Jr, a musician, educator, speaker, and cultural ambassador has traveled the world spreading the message of love and life through the medium of music. Having obtained a Masters in Music Composition and a Doctorate in Education, Oscar has positioned himself to be at the cutting edge of innovation and change when it comes to challenging the status quo and cultivating change in all communities. His musical career has spanned 20+ years, traveling domestically and internationally with programs such as: Rhythm Road, American Music Abroad, The Golden Gospel Singers, and touring his own Cultural Music show entitled “Speak life”.

Oscar is currently building a performing arts charter school in Dallas, TX that focuses on STEAM curriculum and using the performing arts to help students achieve higher academic success. Oscar is also involved in many international cultural exchange programs serving as a mentor to musicians in both Liberia and Ghana. He released his first music project in 2004 and landing on Billboards Top 40 charts. He currently has a new release out entitled, “Speak Life”, that charter #25 on iTunes in its first week. Oscar serves as the Executive Director of Music at the Potter’s House Church. He also is an adjunct professor at Trevecca University. He is the CEO and found of Speak Life Academy of Arts and Music, INC and the CEO of Speak Life, LLC – a music entertainment firm.

# PARTICIPANTS



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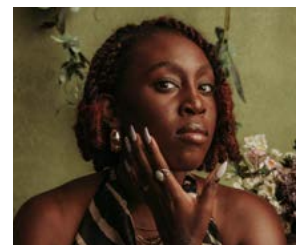
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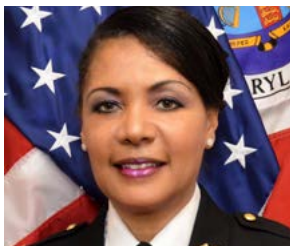
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# WHAT TO DO

in Princeton



**1. Downtown Princeton**—A quaint, vibrant downtown with popular stores and independent shops, local restaurants, and coffee & dessert shops.

**2. Historic Princeton**—Visit one of the many historic buildings in town: The Bainbridge House, Nassau Presbyterian Church, Drumthwacket, Morven Museum & Gardens, and more. Visit [www.princetonhistory.org](http://www.princetonhistory.org).

**3. Princeton Battlefield & Clarke House Museum**—The site of the American Revolutionary War Battle of Princeton, this park has hiking trails and a museum. Walking distance from Seminary along Mercer Street.

**4. Princeton University**—Located a block away from the Seminary, explore the rich history of this famous Ivy League institution. Visit Nassau Hall, the gothic University Chapel, and the free University Art Museum.

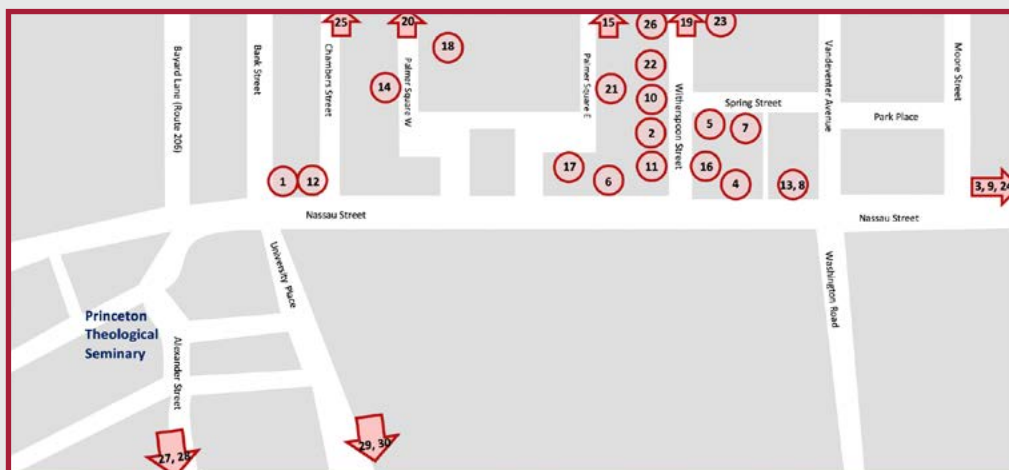
**5. Libraries**—Looking for a quiet place? Visit the Princeton Public Library or tour the Seminary Library.

**6. Tow Path Walking Trail**—Down Alexander Street, a walking path for miles along the local canal provides a relaxing afternoon near Lake Carnegie.

**7. Movie Theaters**—Princeton Garden Theatre (local, independent), & AMC Market Fair (off Route 1).

# WHERE TO EAT

in Princeton



## Yummy Cheap Eats (Avg. \$5–25)

1. Jammin' Crêpes, 20 Nassau St.
2. Mamoun's Falafel, 20 Witherspoon St.
3. Hoagie Haven, 242 Nassau St.
4. Tacoria, 110 Nassau St.
5. Tico's Juice Bar, 33 Witherspoon St.
6. Proof Pizzeria, 84 Nassau St.
7. Planted Plate Vegan, 15 Spring St.
8. PJ's Pancake House, 154 Nassau Street
9. Tiger Noodles, 252 Nassau St.
10. Olive's Deli, 22 Witherspoon St.

11. Small World Coffee, 14 Witherspoon St.
12. Sakrid Coffee, 20 Nassau Street
13. Fresca Bowl & Poke Mahi, 142 Nassau St.
14. The Bent Spoon, 35 Palmer Square W.
15. Halo Pub Ice Cream, 9 Hulfish St.

## Worthy Splurges (Ave. \$25–50)

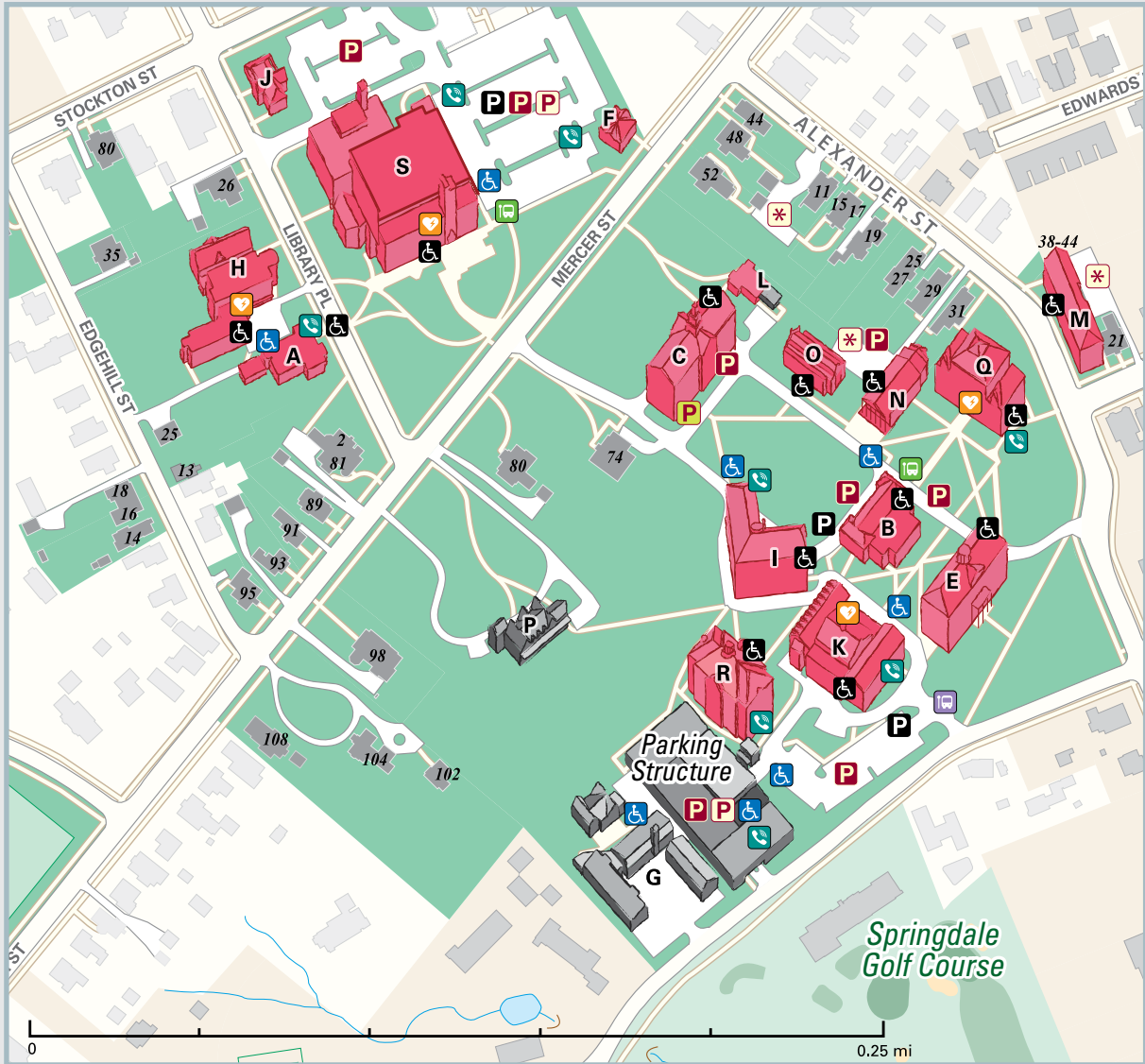
16. Agricola Eatery, 11 Witherspoon St.
17. Winberies Restaurant & Bar, 1 Palmer Square E.
18. Yankee Doodle Tap Room, Palmer Square
19. Mistral, 66 Witherspoon St.

20. Mediterra Restaurant, 29 Hulfish St.
21. Teresa's Pizza & Wine Bar, 23 Palmer Square E.
22. Alchemist & Barrister, 28 Witherspoon St.
23. Witherspoon Grill, 57 Witherspoon St.
24. Blue Point Grill, 258 Nassau St.
25. Tortuga's Mexican Village, 41 Leigh Ave.
26. Lan Ramen, 4 Hulfish St.
27. Metro North, 378 Alexander St.
28. Soonja's Cuisine, 244 Alexander St.
29. The Dinky Bar & Kitchen, 94 University Place
30. Roots Ocean Prime, 98 University Place

# CAMPUS MAP

## Princeton Theological Seminary

Main Campus 64 Mercer Street Princeton, NJ 08542



- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>A</b> Adams House             | <b>K</b> Mackay Campus Center             |
| <b>B</b> Administration Building | <b>L</b> Overseas Ministries Study Center |
| <b>C</b> Alexander Hall          | <b>M</b> Payne Hall                       |
| <b>D</b> Athletic Field          | <b>N</b> Seminary Chapel                  |
| <b>E</b> Brown Hall              | <b>O</b> Scheide Hall                     |
| <b>F</b> Carriage House          | <b>P</b> Springdale                       |
| <b>G</b> Corporation Yard        | <b>Q</b> Stuart Hall                      |
| <b>H</b> Erdman Center           | <b>R</b> Templeton Hall                   |
| <b>I</b> Hodge Hall              | <b>S</b> Wright Library                   |
| <b>J</b> Lenox House             |   |

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>P</b> Visitor Parking          | ■ PTS Private Residence<br><i>(Street addresses in italics)</i>                  |
| <b>P</b> Faculty/Staff Parking    | ♿ ADA Accessible<br><i>Whiteley Gym and Payne Hall are not fully accessible.</i> |
| <b>P</b> Student Parking          | 🚐 Shuttle Stop   |
| <b>P</b> Admissions Guest Parking | 🚐 Weekend Shuttle Stop   |
| ⌘ Resident Parking                | ☎ Emergency Phones   |
| ♿ ADA Accessible Parking          | 👮 Defibrillator  |
| 📍 Campus Buildings                |  |



**BETSEY STOCKTON  
CENTER FOR BLACK  
CHURCH STUDIES**  
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## About Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies

The Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies exists to highlight the theological and religious witness, which arises out of the African American and African Diaspora Christian experience. The Center helps to prepare men and women for vocational ministry or scholarly pursuits shaped by a wider knowledge and deeper appreciation of Black life within American and global Christianity.



The Betsey Stockton Center aspires to be a national leader in research on the Black church through the collaborative creation of scholarship with leading scholars, community leaders, and pastors to address the critical issues confronting clergy, congregants, and communities served by the Black church.

← Scan for more information



**BLACK THEOLOGY  
AND  
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**  
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## What is the Black Theology Leadership Institute?

BTLI is a weeklong intensive continuing education event for clergy and laity for training, worship, and fellowship. The institute is designed for clergy and lay leaders who would like to deepen their thinking and preaching by learning from preeminent scholars of theology and religion. In 2024, *New Fire in New Places: Reconceptualizing Pentecostalism and the Black Church*.

### HOW CAN YOU BECOME A BTLI FELLOW?

All interested leaders are urged to apply, including those who may not have formal theological training. BTLI is limited to 50 fellows. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

BTLI fellows, faculty, and staff gather on the Princeton Theological Seminary campus to think deeply about theology and leadership through robust academics and thoughtful discernment. BTLI is known for its thoughtful and inspiring daily worship.

BTLI begins on Monday, July 15, 2024 and concludes on Friday, July 19, 2024.



← Scan for more information

# Save the Date!



BLACK THEOLOGY  
AND  
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2025 BTLI | July 14–18 2025

## WELCOME TO Princeton Theological Seminary

Whether you want to explore our degree programs, attend on-campus events, visit the Wright Library or our 21-acre farm, or enroll in an online continuing education offering, we look forward to welcoming you!

*Explore what Princeton Seminary  
has to offer.*

[ptsem.edu](http://ptsem.edu)



# THANK YOU



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

## Presbyterian Mission Agency

We are incredibly grateful to the financial support of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Their gracious grant of twenty-five thousand dollars enabled several of our participants to attend this year's conference and underwrote essential elements of this year's gathering. Through the leadership of Rev. Dr. Carlton Johnson, Associate Director for Theology, Formation and Evangelism and Coordinator for the Office of Vital Congregations of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Laura Bryant, Coordinator, Financial Aid for Service Theology, Formation, and Evangelism, the Presbyterian Church has made an invaluable investment in their clergy, leaders and this Institute.

## Institutional Partners

Hopefully, if you are attending this year's Institute, you have experienced our profound appreciation for your presence in your every encounter. We are truly blessed to have you here! However, I hope you also know how absolutely invaluable so many of our staff, institutional partners, and volunteers have been to this experience. Please join me in expressing our profound appreciation to those whose service, while sometimes invisible, has been essential to this Institute.

**Cheryl Ali**, Senior Director of Advancement

**Chrissy Asterito**, Director of Hospitality and Event Services

**Maiia Avelino**, Hospitality and Events Business Services Coordinator

**Amy Ehlin**, Senior Director of Auxiliary Services

**Linda Romano**, Vice President for Marketing and Communications

**Melissa Haupt**, Assistant Director of Worship

**Vince Papp**, Director of Hospitality and Dining Services

**Abigail Rusert**, Associate Dean of Continuing Education

**Lydia Tembo**, Director of Admissions

**Johnna Herrick-Phelps**, Associate Dean for Online and Digital Learning

# VOLUNTEERS

## Staff and Volunteers



**Julia Feacher,**  
Administrative Assistant  
for the Centers



**Deja Wilson,**  
BTLI Program Manager,  
Graduate Student

## Graduate Student Assistants



**Lauryn Hankerson,**  
Graduate Student



**Nana Wviston,**  
Graduate Student



# STAY IN TOUCH



**Princeton Theological Seminary**

Betsy Stockton Center for

Black Church Studies

64 Mercer Street | Princeton, NJ | 08542-0803

615.542.7348 | [bsc.ptsem.edu](http://bsc.ptsem.edu)

[blackchurchstudies@ptsem.edu](mailto:blackchurchstudies@ptsem.edu) | [BTLL@ptsem.edu](mailto:BTLL@ptsem.edu)



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AND  
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