

CURRICULUM VITAE

NANCY LYNNE WESTFIELD

“It is necessary, but not sufficient to learn and then work. You must learn from the work and learn while you work.”—Judith Rodin, former President of the Rockefeller Foundation

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. The Union Institute, 1999
Cincinnati, Ohio
Religious Education & Womanist Studies
Dissertation:
*Poetics of Hospitality: Toward A Womanist Pedagogy in
Theological Education*
- M.A. Scarritt Graduate School, 1985
Nashville, Tennessee
Concentration: Christian Education
- M.T.S. Drew University Theological School, 2012
Madison, New Jersey
Concentration: Spirituality
- B.S. Murray State University, 1983
Murray, Kentucky
Concentration: Landscape Architecture/Horticultural Design
- Diploma W.B. Saul High School of Agriculture, 1979
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
Crawfordsville, Indiana
2019 to present
Director

Drew University Theological School
Madison, New Jersey
1999 to 2019
Professor of Religious Education
Director, Drew Social Justice Leadership Project

Eastern Baptist Seminary
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 1998 to July 1999
Adjunct Professor of Christian Education

Lutheran Theological Seminary
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 1995 to July 1999
Adjunct Professor of Christian Education

Center for Urban Theological Studies
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 1994 to July 1999
Mentor in Degree Completion Program & Adjunct Professor of Christian Education

Cookman United Methodist Church
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
September 1995 to July 1997
Minister of Christian Education

The Riverside Church
New York, New York
June 1987 to December 1993
Minister of Christian Education

New York Theological Seminary
New York, New York
Spring 1990 to Spring 1994
Adjunct Professor of Christian Education

Pennsylvania Horticulture Society
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 1987 to December 1987
Green Country Towne Administrator

The Frankford Group Ministry
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 1985 to October 1987
Community Developer

PUBLICATIONS

Blogs

Huffington Post – contributor 2015-16.

Wabash Center Blogs under the headings of “Reflective Teaching,” “Teaching, Religion, Politics,” “Learning from the Front (of the Classroom)” – 2014 to present.

Pod Casts

“Dialogue on Teaching” moderated for Wabash Center.

“Womanist Conversation” moderated by Dr. Tina Pippin, in conversation with Dr. Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, 2017.

Texts

Being Black, Teaching Black: Politics and Pedagogy in Religious Studies. Nashville: Abingdon, edited by Westfield, 2008.

Black Church Studies: An Introduction. Nashville: Abingdon, co-authored with Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Carol B. Duncan, Stephen G. Ray, Jr., 2007.

Dear Sisters: A Womanist Practice of Hospitality. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2001.

Articles & Anthology Chapters

Scholarly Audiences

“God Talk with Black Thinkers: An Innovative Model for Black Church Studies,” *The Black Church Studies Reader*, edited by Alton Pollard III & Carol Duncan, Palgrave Macmillan, co-authored by Arthur Pressley and Nancy Lynne Westfield, 2015.

“Christian Education As Conversation,” *Under the Oak Tree: The Church as Community of Conversation in a Conflicted and Pluralistic World*, ed. Ron Allen (Cascade: Oregon, 2013).

Fennell, Robert C., Richard S. Aschough, Tat-siong Benny Liew, Michael McLain, Nancy Lynne Westfield. 2010. “Responses to Hugh Hecllo’s *On Thinking Institutionally*.” *Teaching Theology and Religion* 13:272-284

“She Put Her Foot in the Pot: Table Fellowship As A Practice of Political Activism,” *Creating Ourselves: African Americans And Hispanic Americans On Popular Culture and Religious Expression*, eds. Anthony B. Pinn and Benjamin Valentin, Duke Univeristy Press, 2009.

“Researching a Womanist Pedagogy to Heal,” *The Journal of the Religious Education*, Spring 2006, 101(2):170-174.

AAR Career *Guide for Racial Ethnic Minorities in the Profession*. chapter 8; 2006, www.aarweb.org/about/board/rem/careerguide/default.asp.

“Momma Why.....: A Womanist Epistemology of Hope,” anthology entitled *Deeper Shades of Purple*, , ed. Stacey Floyd-Thomas, New York University Press, 2006.

“Teaching For Globalized Consciousness: Black Professor, White Student & Shame,” *Black Theology: An International Journal*, Vol. 2, Number 1: 73-83, 2004.

“Toward a Womanist Approach to Pedagogy,” *Religious Education*, Vol. 98, Number 4: 521-534, Fall 2003.

“Kitchen Table Banter,” *Religious Education Journal*, Vol. 96. No. 3, Summer 2001.

“Life-Giving Stories: The Bible in a Congregation,” *African Americans and the Bible: Sacred Texts and Social Textures* ed. by Vincent L. Wimbush, Continuum Press, 2000, pp.577-587. “Blessed Quietness,” *Conversations with God*, ed. James M. Washington, Harper-Collins, 1995, pp. 273-275.

“Theomusicology and Christian Education: Spirituality and the Ethics of Control in the Music of M. C. Hammer.” (with Harold Dean Trulear), *Journal of Sacred Music*, Duke University Press, Spring 1994.

Church Audiences

United Against Racism: Churches for Change. Contributor, The National Council for The Churches In The USA, Friendship Press, 2018.

A Faithful Future: Teaching and Learning for Discipleship. Krau, Carol F., Bunyi, Judith., Westfield, N. Lynne. Nashville, Tenn.: Discipleship Resources, 1999.

“Epilogue,” *The Network*, Union Institute Press, Vol. 5, No. 1, Spring 1998, p. 57.

“All Quite Beautiful.” *Multicultural Curriculum Magazine for Ages 6 to 12*, Nashville: Friendship Press, 1996.

“Attitudes Toward Other Races.” with Carolyn Hardin Englehardt, *Challenge Curriculum*. Discipleship Resources, Fall 1994, pp. 24-39.

“Celebrating Ethnic and Cultural Diversity.” *Teacher*. Discipleship Resources, February 1993, pp. 22-23.

Curriculum for Ages 4,5,6.@ *Invitation*. Discipleship Resources, Fall 1994.

“Revival of Hope.” *Curriculum for Youth Concerning Drugs and Alcohol*. Pan-

Methodist Coalition, Spring 1993 edition.

“Who is Nelson Mandela.” *The Magazine for Christian Youth*. June 1991, pp. 32-35.

“Awed by God’s Grace.” *Response Magazine*, March 1991, pp. 4-5.

“And a Child Shall Lead Them,” *Lydia’s Cloth*, Vol.1, No. 2, July/Aug, 1991.

“Books for the Rights of Children Around the World.” *The United Methodist Children’s Fund for Christian Mission Packet*, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Nashville, TN: 1990.

“Celebrating Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Child Care Programs.” *Ecumenical Child Care Newsletter*, Vol. 8, No. 5, September/October 1990.

Writing in Progress

“Through My Mother’s Eyes: Learning the World/Learning to be Womanist” – chapter for anthology entitled *Christian Education as Public Theology*, edited by Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, publisher pending.

Until It Is Faced: Insights on Race, Racism, and Spirituality (working title) – text being written from blogs uploaded on Wabash Center web-site, book proposal and publisher pending.

Every Goodbye Ain’t Gone: A Telling of Mystical Encounters by Two Ornerly Women – a co-authored text with Barbara Holmes concerning womanist spirituality, manuscript pending.

Clothed & in Her Right Mind: Teacher As Healer. This gestating text is a compilation of auto-biographical themes, short stories and poetry honoring the women who have been my teachers, mentors and guides for the last fifty-plus years.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES (selected)

Academic Audiences

“About Face!: The Epistemology of Womanist Pedagogy,” colloquy presentation, Religious Educators Association, 2017.

“About Face!: The Epistemology of Womanist Pedagogy,” American Academy of Religion (Practical Theology Section), 2017.

“The Trouble with Classroom Conversation on Race(ism)” – panel on pedagogy, Society for the Study of Black Religion, 2016.

Lecturer, “The Interplay of the Experiential and the Theoretical,” Society for the Study of Black Religion, Detroit, Annual Meeting, Spring, 2014.

Respondent to Rudy Rasmus, Wesley Theological Seminary, Urban Ministry Conference, Fall 2012.

Respondent, American Academy of Religion, Women and Religion Section, Fall 2011.

Lecturer, 24th Annual Preaching With Power: A Forum on Black Preaching and Theology, The Urban Theological Institute of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, March, 2006.

Panelist, 2nd Annual State of the Black Church Summit and Awards Banquet: Linking Divine Justice to Social Justice, Brite Divinity School, Ft. Worth, Texas, March 23-25, 2006.

Panelist, Black Church Studies Forum, Candler Seminary, Emory University, January 31-February 2, 2006.

Colloquium Essay, “A Womanist Perspective on Prayer,” Association of Professors and Researchers of Religious Education, November 2004.

Panelist, “Momma Why ...? – A Womanist Epistemology of Hope,” American Academy of Religion, November 2004.

Panelist, “A Womanist Imagination,” Shaw Center, Boston University, March 24-25, 2004.

Church Audiences

“How Better to Study the Bible,” Lenten Series Bible Study, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Newark, David Jefferson, Pastor, 2018.

Workshop, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Summit, NJ, “Changing Scope of Christian Education,” 2016.

Bible Study, Calvary Baptist Church, Morristown, Jerry Carter, Pastor, 2014.

Workshop on Woman and Prayer, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Newark, David Jefferson, Pastor, 2012.

Preacher, Prayer Breakfast for Women, Convent Baptist Church, Brooklyn, Gary Simpson, Pastor, 2012.

Workshop on Christian Education, St. John A.M.E., Huntsville, Alabama, Patrick Clayborn, Pastor, 2012.

COURSES (a sampling)

Introduction to Educational Ministries:

Howard Thurman wrote, "Practice is theory realizing itself." This first level course provides the learner with an introduction to the theory and methodology of Christian Education from a liberation perspective. Christian Education, for the purposes of this course, is the theory and practice (praxis or art) of nurturing faith for the liberation of all oppressed peoples. The cornerstone notions of the course are praxis and ubuntu. Praxis is belief set in action for justice in the world. The African-centric notion of ubuntu means - "I am because we are." The course teaches that education is a practice of freedom and is best accomplished through and with the entire community for the purposes of justice and social transformation.

What's Love Got to Do With It? Womanist Teaching for the Beloved Community:

Teaching does not happen in a vacuum; teaching happens in community. Through the scholarly lens of Womanists, this course is an examination of theologies and strategies for creating and sustaining a sense of the beloved community and the role teaching and learning have in the resistance of oppression and the fostering of survival and justice. The cornerstone notion of this course is the practice of resilience which has served to thwart the madness of oppression. Special attention will be given to the imagination and artistic expression of Black women.

Reel to Real: Portrayals of Women:

Films are powerful purveyors of story which shape, form, and inform the identity of women and their place(s) in society. Movies, while designed for entertainment, provide public discourse about the roles, responsibilities, stereotypes, and contestation of women and their identity. Analyzing film as public discourse affords pedagogical opportunity to engage the complexity of the identities of women in contemporary society while at the same time creating conversation to deconstruct the outdated, outmoded, and dehumanizing images which maintain oppression and misogyny. As cultural critics and theologians (not film critics), we will use archetypes and stereotypes of women to see how these distortions are embedded into culture as "truth." The pivotal question for our discussion is: Upon whose gaze is the identity of women determined and for what gain?

God-Talk with Black Thinkers:

The "God Talk" project has been at Drew Theological Seminary since the spring of 2002. The project holds in creative tension our seminary's mission to both educate our students for practical leadership within the local church as well as to educate our students to be theologians in residence with the racial particularity of their local church and neighborhoods. The projects aim is to shape more effective ministers for the globalizing world. The project is an interdisciplinary series of intensive courses taught by the best African-American and African intellectuals from across the country. Each course

designed a public expression to expose the broader Drew community, or in some cases the boarder local church community, to our study. To date, our students have been exposed to such thinkers as: Delores Williams, Carlyle Fielding Stewart III, Cheryl Kirk-Duggan, Karen Baker-Fletcher, Vincent Harding, Arthur Jones, Ferninand Jones, Gwinyai H. Muzorewa, James Cone, Stacey & Juan Floyd-Thomas, Zan Holmes, Carol Duncan, Alton Pollard, Anthony Pinn, Stephen Ray, Shawn Copeland, Fred Smith, Ronald Peters, Carolyn Medine, Iva Carruthers, Jeremiah Wright, Charles Long, Iva Carruthers and Fareed Munir. These Afro-centric experiences were designed to heal, rekindle and inspire students.

Ministry and Imagination:

Note: This co-taught, intensive, experiential course has a different theme each year. The past themes have been: 2006 – Creativity, Imagination, and Wonder;

2007 – Writing on the Body; 2008 – Breath and Life; 2009 – Wholly Living, Holy Dying;

2010 – Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise; 2011 – And He Descended into Hell; 2012 – Filled With the Holy Spirit

2010 Description of Ministry and Imagination: Today You Will Be With Me In Paradise We will gather at an ocean front retreat center to better *know* (experience and critical reflection: mind, body and spirit) paradise in new and needed ways for more effective Christian leadership. This intensive course, graded only on pass/fail basis, will explore the notion of paradise as a spiritual practice, with a focus on humor and ecstasy. An adage about teaching says, “You cannot teach what you do not know.” It is our contention that seminarians must have first-hand experience of and critical reflection of those practices of self-care and wellness that will serve them while pastoring. This course will assist pastors and church leaders with maintaining healthy and vibrant communities who are resilient by being personally better versed and experienced in the goodness of life and living – in the experience of paradise, joy, heaven, rapture, glory, bliss, delight. Previous experience of humor and ecstasy are encouraged. This is a cloistered experience intended to revitalize and inspire.

OTHER AWARDED GRANTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awarded three-year grant to Drew University Theological School by Henry Luce Foundation (Luce Fund for Theological Education) to support the public theology initiative, 2018-2020; established the Drew Social Justice Leadership Project.

Member, Board of Directors, Horizons in Religious Education Book Series, 2018 – 2020.

Awarded grant by DuPont Foundation for the work of curriculum revision for Drew University Theological Seminary, 2016.

Awarded one-year grant from Drew University to enrich course design, 2016-2017.

Mentor for African-American doctoral students under scholarship from the Fund Theological Education, 2004-05.

Completed The Case Study Institute, Harvard Divinity School, July 5-12, 2003.

Awarded planning grant, co-authored with Arthur Pressley, by Lilly Foundation, planning of Youth Ministry Project, in anticipation of a three-year project, Fall 2001.

ECCLESIAL ORDERS

Ordained Deacon, United Methodist Church, 1997.

CONSULTATIONS

Longevity Consulting, Washington, D.C. – team member, 2018 to present. A profit organization which assists companies with issues of efficiency and problem solving; facilitator expertise - diversity training, strategic planning, multicultural relationship management; program development and assessment; project management; analysis and advocacy for social change, cultural competency, collaboration and teamwork strategies.

Consultant, General Commission on Religion and Race, Washington, D.C. (United Methodist Church), creation of educational materials on religion, race and equity to reboot web-site resources, 2016.

Consultant, Garrett Evangelical Seminary, Evanston, Graduate Division of Religion, degree program assessment, 2016.

Consultant, Association of Theological Schools for the “Re-framing Education” Project, 2011.

SERVICE

Co-Advisor, Black Ministerial Caucus (student organization), Drew University Theological School, 2018 to present.

Scarritt-Bennet Center, Nashville, Board of Directors, 1999 to 2014; President of the Board 2009-2014.

Board of Ordained Ministry, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, board member 1996 to present. Chair of the Deacons, 1997 to 1999.

Scarritt Graduate School Alumni Executive Committee, 1993 to 1999.

ACADEMIC GUILD MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Practical Theology, 2018 to present.

Society for the Study of Black Religion, 2003 to present.

Religious Educators Association, 1987 to present.

Executive Board Member, 1999 to 2001

American Academy of Religion, 1987 to present.