

Pamela R. Lightsey, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
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Professional Experience

03/2009 – Present **Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
01/2007 – 03/2009 **Dean of Students**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
07/2001 – 12/2006 **Senior Pastor**, Southlawn United Methodist Church, Chicago, IL
07/1999 – 06/2001 **Associate Pastor**, St. Mary’s Road United Methodist Church, Columbus, Georgia
07/1997 – 06/1999 **Student Local Pastor**, St. Mary’s Road United Methodist Church, Columbus, Georgia
08/1980 – 02/1997(circa) **Department of Defense, United States Government**, Civilian Service. Locations: stateside, Belgium and Germany
10/1977 – 09/1979 **United States Army**, Honorable Discharge, Signal Corps. Soldier

Education

2005 Doctor of Philosophy, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL.
Discipline: Theology and Ethics with additional work in African Philosophy at Northwestern University.
Dissertation: *If Somebody Hits You: Towards a Pan African Perspective of Just War*. Focused on classical and contemporary just war theories from a Pan African perspective.

2001 Master of Divinity (with honors) Gammon Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia. Double Concentration: Church History and Theology.

1998 Bachelor of Science, Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia. Major: Sociology

Postdoctoral Education

2010 – Present **Executive Education Certificate Program**, Kellogg School of Management – Center for Nonprofit Management, Northwestern University, and Garrett-ETS *M Div Plus Program*, Evanston, IL

Areas of Continued Research: Queer Theology; Black Liberation Theology; Womanist Theology; Some Early Islamic History, as well as African Philosophy

Administrative Experience

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students: 01/2007 to Present. Responsibilities include: Reporting directly to the President; general oversight, coordination and planning of Student Affairs programs; serving as the Affirmative Action Officer; developing and providing leadership and coordination for the Emergency Preparedness Planning as mandated by the State of Illinois; functioning as liaison with Northwestern University for student life and emergency preparedness collaboration; supervising staff; setting and overseeing the budget; working with Admissions personnel in matters related to international students, the scholarship committee, and admissions consultations; Board of Trustee meetings with specific responsibilities to the Student Affairs Committee; serving as primary designated officer (PDO) for international student affairs with regards to compliance with governmental (SEVIS/INS) requirements. Adjunct Faculty Member

- Committee Service
 - Master's Degree Committee
 - Cross-Cultural International Theological Education Committee
 - Worship Committee
 - Chair – Emergency Preparedness Committee
 - Chair – Student Concerns Committee (responsible for monitoring the progress of Students during times of personal crisis or academic challenges)
 - Chair – Housing Task Force that was responsible for developing student-housing transition plans in conjunction with the building project of a new student center currently known as Loder Hall.
 - Member – Strategic Task Force Team responsible for developing the schools 5-year plan
 - Chair – Convened the collaboration between the National Organization for Black Law Executives and area Black Scholars Think against youth gang violence
 - Member – Presidents' Leadership Team (a team of the school's key administrators who regularly meet and confer with the President on matters related to the mission and work of the school)

Accomplishments

Revised the existing emergency preparedness system to comply with the Illinois' Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008. Established quarterly discussions with the City of Evanston's first responder and Northwestern University's directors of Emergency Operations and Risk Management. Gave oversight to the work to secure the contract for our emergency computer call system (text and voicemail). Created a dialogue session with students called the *Dean's Listening Hour* that functions as a proactive mechanism to minimize conflict and provide information. Revised and improved the department of International Student Affairs by offering self-help resources for students, comprehensive assistance to students and faculty advisors, and training an additional DSO.

Leadership Development

2009 Prospective Presidents Seminar – Received training for persons who are specifically selected as prospective presidents of United Methodist related schools of higher education. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church hosted this annual event.

Teaching Experience

- Adjunct Professor of Theology:
 - Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary 2007 – Present

- Classes: 1) *Pneumatology, Christology and Ecclesiology*, 2) *Evil and Aggression* and 3) *Vocational Formation and Church Leadership*
 - Lectures: *Preaching Preparedness* (Homiletics)
- Dominican University, 2004 – Present
 - Class: *African American Religious Experiences and Theologies*

Selected Panels, Lectures, Papers and Seminars

- 2010 Truth Commission on Conscience in War.** Expert Witness Testimony: *Religious Understandings of Just War*. The Riverside Church, NY, NY
- 2010** American Academy of Religion, Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society – Presented paper “*"Ain't Nothin' An Old Man Can Do Fuh Me But..."*: *Moms Mabley and the Need for Funny During the Civil Rights Movement*.” Atlanta, GA
- 2009 Loyola University**, Chicago, African American Studies lecture – *Womanist Queer Theology*
- 2009 American Academy of Religion, Feminist/Womanist Session** - Paper “*Inner Dictum: A Womanist Reflection from the Queer Realm*.” Montreal, Canada
- 2009 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry** Scholars Panel Work: Providing guidance to the UMC Council of Bishop for their 2009 Episcopal Letter *In Defense of Creation*
- 2009 Reconciling Ministries Convocation** workshop facilitator – *Black Queer Theologies*
- 2009 Lutheran School of Theology** workshop facilitator – *African American Women’s Spirituality*
- 2008 EnVision** - Guest scholar and panelist among several leading evangelicals and mainline Protestant liberals at conference held at Princeton University. This conference brought together over 60 scholars in such fields as theology, ethics, biblical studies and evangelical history to present workshops and lead in panels discussing some of the most pressing social issues of our time. The event concluded with the preparation of a statement entitled, “A Declaration on the Common Good.” June 2008. To view it, visit HYPERLINK "http://www.ev08" www.ev08.
- 2008 Guest Scholar** – South Georgia Annual Conference Connectional Ministries and Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) *Black Church Growth Summit*
- 2007 Gammon Theological Seminary** – *Thirkield-Jones Lecture*. Presented a two-day academic lecture during the seminary’s annual Founders’ Day celebrations. Topic: *Community in This Present Age*
- 2007 Guest Scholar** – UMC General Board of Higher Education’s consultation on the UMC Judicial Council Decision 1032
- 2006 Panelist – Women of Color Scholars** Consultation, Chicago, IL. Paper: *For Women of Color Who Have Considered Givin’ Up When the Church Is Not Enuf* discussed challenges related to vocational opportunities for women of color within the United Methodist Church and its seminaries. Presented Paper:

Publications and Works in Progress

Inner Dictum: A Womanist Reflection from the Queer Realm – work in progress

If There Should Come a Word in Black United Methodists Preach! ed. Jennifer Brooks. Abingdon Press. Publication date forthcoming

Reconciliation in Recovering Evangelicalism, eds. Malinda Berry and Bruce Benson. W.B. Eerdmans Publishing. Publication date forthcoming

A Prayer for Haiti – online publication at the UMC General Board of Discipleship

You Want a Piece of This in WellSprings: A Journal of United Methodist Clergywomen, Spring 2009

Benefit vs. Cost: A Call to Action – a commentary on the use of hate language.
<http://www.gcsrw.org/commentaries/commentaries.html>, 2008

For Women of Color Scholars Who Have Considered Giving Up – published lecture presented for The United Methodist Church Women of Color PhD scholarship program.
<http://www.gbhem.org/asp/resourceLibrary.asp>, 2007

Sermon Starters – UMC Circuit Rider Magazine, March/April 2007 issue

Selected Distinctions and Work

- 2008** Selected to attend the *Women in Leadership* Seminar sponsored by the **Association of Theological Schools** (grant from Lilly Endowment).
- 2008** **Outside Review Team** for the Office of Student Programs (OSP) at Candler School of Theology. External team commissioned to assess the OSP primarily in light of best practices for student services as reflected in the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) standard 7.
- 2005** **Commencement speaker**, Black Hawk College, Moline, IL, “Cheddar, Bling Bling and Ephemeral Conditions: Working It in This Present Age.”
- 2002** Awarded the *Key to The City* by the Mayor of Columbus, Georgia for outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the community.

Church Related Experience and Distinctions

- 2009 – Present** **Clergy Mentor**, The United Methodist Church Candidacy Process
- 2008 – Present** **Conference Board of Pension** – Northern Illinois Conference, UMC
- 2008** Alternate **Jurisdictional Conference delegate**, North Central Jurisdiction UMC
- 2004 - Present** Appointed delegate of the United Methodist Church General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns to the **Pan Methodist Commission**. A consortium of leading representatives of the major Methodist churches (i.e. UMC, AME, AMEZ and CME) whose work is specifically directed to pursue ecumenical cooperation and the future uniting of all these churches into one denomination.

Major Work Areas:

- Led and directed the work of the development of the Commission's first Quadrennial Strategic Plan (2008 – 2012).
- **Pan Methodist Commission Consultative Panel**, traveled to Israel as guest of the *American Jewish Committee* in June 2006 with the goal of developing stronger relationship between the Commission and AJC.

- 2006** Selected as a 2006 *delegate* from the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church to travel to *Palestine* in a missions, education, peace and justice advocacy trip.
- 2005** **Ordained Elder** in Full Connection, Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
- 2005** **Presiding Elder**, Chicago Southern District, NIC, UMC
- 2005 – 2007** **District Board of Ordained Ministry** (Chicago Southern)
- 2004 – 2008** **Conference Board of Higher Education**, Northern Illinois Conference
- 1999** **Sanctuary Completion** – While serving as Associate Pastor of St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church, Columbus, GA. Key leader in helping the church see to completion its multi-million dollar worship facility.

Professional and Volunteer Societies

- American Academy of Religion – Co-Chair, Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society group
- Reconciling Ministries – Board Member
- National Board of Advisors (Executive Board member) for *The Soul Repair Project*, Lily funded
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) - member
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. - member
- Church Within A Church - Board Member
- City of Evanston Mayor's Taskforce Member – Mayor's *Violence Prevention Taskforce*

Fellowships and Scholarships

- 2001 – 2005 **Garrett-Evangelical PhD Scholarship**
- 2001 – 2005 **The Fund for Theological Education**, North American Doctoral Fellow Program
- 2001 – 2005 **United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education** – Women of Color Scholar Program

Other Vocational Experience

Owner/CEO – *OneNabi Consulting Inc.* – specializing in public speaking, workshop and seminar presentations. <http://www.OneNabi.com/blog>

Dual Licensed **Insurance Agent** – Life and Health/Property and Casualty