

MARCIA Y. RIGGS

4911 Fieldgreen Drive
Stone Mountain, Georgia 30088
Email: RMYRiggs@comcast.net

Residence: 770-323-5520
Cell: 678-357-5839
Office: 404-687-4537
Email: RiggsM@CTSnet.edu

EDUCATION

A.B. <i>cum laude</i>	Religion	Randolph-Macon Woman's College Lynchburg, VA
M.Div.		Yale University Divinity School New Haven, CT
Ph.D.	Religion (Ethics)	Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1991-Present	Columbia Theological Seminary-Decatur, Georgia, J. Erskine Love Professor of Christian Ethics and Director, Th.M. Program. Current and Past Responsibilities: Teaching in the Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and Lay School Programs; Administration of the Th.M. program and teaching its research seminar; Co-Chair with the Dean of the Faculty/Executive Vice President of the Multicultural Organizational Development Committee; Interim Chair of the Advanced Degrees Committee; Interim Director of the Master of Arts in Theological Studies program; past chair of the Educational Services Re-accreditation Committee; past chair of the Historical-Doctrinal Studies Academic Area. Additional Institutional Work: Faculty Evaluation Committee; Administrators Evaluation Committee; Search Committee for the Dean of Faculty/Executive Vice President; Search Committees for Professors of Ethics, Evangelism; Developed curriculum for new specialization in cross-cultural studies for the Doctor of Ministry program; Designed and co-taught new interdisciplinary course on women's issues and health in church and society; created and co-taught with faculty from the Interdenominational Theological Center a seminar with congregation-based workshop curriculum on race and religion.
2014	Barbara King School of Ministry. Atlanta, GA. Course on Ministerial Ethics.
2005; 2006	Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Co-Teacher, ACTS Doctor of Ministry in Preaching. Preaching as a Social Act--Summer Course.
1995	Pacific School of Religion-C Claremont, CA, Visiting Instructor, Summer Program. Taught course on ethics in the local church.

- 1991-1993 **Hemphill African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church-Summerville, Georgia, Associate Minister.** Responsible for education program for children and youth and assisting in worship services.
- 1988-1991 **Drew University Theological School-Madison, New Jersey, Instructor/Assistant Professor of Religion and Society.** Responsible for teaching in the Master of Divinity, Doctor of Ministry, and Graduate School Programs. Taught courses in Liberation Ethics, Religion and Social Process, Origins of Oppression, Theories of Justice and Social Policy.
- 1987 **Vanderbilt University Divinity School-Nashville, TN, Senior Teaching Fellow.** Taught course in Black Liberation Ethics.
- 1986 **Vanderbilt University Archives-Nashville, TN, Research Assistant.** Responsible for organizing and arranging the Kelly Miller Smith Papers.
- 1985 **Vanderbilt University Divinity School-Nashville, TN, Graduate Teaching Assistant.** Responsible for leading small group discussions and evaluating students in introductory theological ethics course

PUBLICATIONS: Selected Chapters in Books and Articles

- “Loves the Spirit: Transformative Mediation as Pedagogical Practice” in *Conflict Transformation and Religion*. Edited by Ellen Ott Marshall. Palgrave, 2016. (Forthcoming)
- “Engaging Historical Pain: An Ethical Imperative for Doing Ministry in the 21st Century.” Teaching Tactic in ARTS Magazine. 2015.
- “Living at the Intersections of Injustice.” Vantage Magazine. Columbia Seminary, 2015.
- “What do 19th Century Reformers Have to Say to 20th Century Liberationists” and “Living as Religious Ethical Mediators: A Vocation for People of Faith” in the 21st Century” in *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader* edited by Katie G. Cannon, Emilie M. Townes, and Angela D. Sims. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2011.
- “Escaping the Polarity of Race vs. Gender and Ethnicity” in *Wading Through Many Voices: Toward a Theology of Public Conversation*.” Edited by Harold Recinos. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011.

- “For Public Education that Practices and Promotes Peace.” In *To Do Justice: Engaging Progressive Christians in Social Action*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2008.
- “The Globalization of Nothing and *Creatio Ex Nihilo*.” In *Theology That Matters: Ecology, Economy and God*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2006.
- “Character Ethics and Moral Education for Liberation.” In *Character & Scripture: Moral Formation, Community, and Biblical Interpretation*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.
- “What Happens to a Dream Deferred?: Reflections and Hopes of a Member of a Transitional Generation.” In *An Unfinished Dream: Theological Reflections on America*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.
- “African American Children, the Hope of the Race: Mary Church Terrell, the Social Gospel, And the Work of the Black Women’s Club Movement.” In *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000.
- “Living into the Bonds of Justice: A Challenge for Ethical Leadership into the 21st Century” in *The Stones the Builders Rejected*. Edited by Walter Earl Fluker. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1998.
- “Living into Tensions: Christian Ethics as Mediating Process” in *Many Voices, One God: Being Faithful in a Pluralistic World*. Edited by Walter Brueggemann and George W. Stroup. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.
- “Taking Myself Seriously: Transformation of a Working Pedagogical Model.” Spotlight on Teaching, *Religious Studies News*, 1996.
- “Mediating Arguments About Family Values.” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. Spring, 1996.
- “‘A Clarion-Call to Awake! Arise! & Act’: The Response of the Black Women’s Club Movement to Institutionalized Moral Evil” in *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993.
- “Answering God’s Call in Academe” in *Perspectives on Womanist Theology*. Edited by Jacquelyn Grant. Atlanta, GA: The ITC Press, 1995.
- “Story of King’s Early Years: A Young Man’s Letters and School Essays Reveal a Maturing Genius.” *The Atlanta Journal/Constitution*. February 23, 1992.

“The Logic of Interstructured Oppression: A Black Womanist Perspective” in *Redefining Sexual Ethics: A Sourcebook of Essays, Stories, and Poems*. Edited by Susan E. Davies and Eleanor H. Haney. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1991.

“Ethics for Living a Dream Deferred,” *The Drew Gateway* 59:1(Fall, 1989).

“The Socio-Religious Ethical Tradition of Black Women: Implications for the Black Church’s Role in Black Liberation,” *Union Seminary Quarterly Review* 43(1989). Reprinted in *Moral Issues and Christian Response*. Fifth Edition. Edited by Paul T. Jersild and Dale A. Johnson. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1999.

“Roundtable Discussion: Racism in the Women’s Movement,” *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 4:1(Spring, 1988).

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS

Ethics That Matters: African, Caribbean, and African American Sources. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2011.

Plenty Good Room: Women Versus Male Power in the Black Church. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2003.

Can I Get a Witness? Prophetic Religious Voices of African American Women, An Anthology. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.

Awake, Arise, & Act: A Womanist Call for Black Liberation. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 1994.

Works in Progress:

Religious Ethical Mediation: An Ethical Theory and Practice for People of Faith in the 21st Century; Ruth and Esther (A Theological Commentary); “Teaching Religion and Theology in the 21st Century: A Critical Pedagogy”

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

“Black Religion*: Why an Asterisk?” State of Black Religion Lecture. Society for the Study of Black Religion. Boston, MA. March 2016.

“Living Into Tensions: An Interactive Workshop Nurturing Empathy and Intercultural Communication.” (Building Stronger Relationships in a Multicultural Workplace). United Methodist Communications, Nashville, TN, 2015; 2016.

“Religiously Motivated Violence in these Post 9/11 Times.” Sunday School Series. First Presbyterian Church. Atlanta, GA, 2015.

Workshop, “The Quest for Sexual-Gender Justice,” District Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church, Augusta, GA, August, 2011.

Peace and Justice Colloquium Leader and Lecturer. Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries. Elkhart, IN, February, 2011.

Westervelt Lectures, Austin Theological Seminary, Austin, TX, January 2011.

“Loves the Spirit”: Critical Pedagogy for Teaching Religion and Theology in the 21st Century. American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, 2010.

Lecture, “Living as Religious Ethical Mediators: Restoring Communal Integrity.” Atlanta Metropolitan College. Atlanta, GA. 2010.

Respondent, Opening Plenary Address on Moral Outrage. Annual Society of Christian Ethics Meeting. Chicago, IL. January, 2009.

Speaker, Banquet Honoring Dr. Katie G. Cannon. Candler School of Theology’s Black Church Studies Conference. Emory Conference Center. Atlanta, GA. January, 2009.

The Challenges of Ethical Leadership in the 21st Century. Workshop Series. Trinity Presbyterian Church. Atlanta, GA. February 2009.

Shelby Rooks Lecture. Chicago Theological Seminary. October 2008.

Women’s Day Preacher. Hemphill A.M.E. Zion Church. Summerville, GA. September 2008.

Panelist, Middle Passages Conference. Yale University Divinity School. April 2008.

“Living as Religious Ethical Mediators: Intercultural Communication in the 21st Century.” Adult Sunday School Presentation. Trinity Presbyterian Church. Atlanta, GA. November 2007.

Lecture: “‘When and Where I Enter’: Black Women and Social Reform in the 19th Century South.” Montreat Conference Center. Montreat, NC. July 2007.

Keynote Speaker and Faculty, Doctoral Students Conference, The Fund for Theological Education at Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC. June 2007.

“Living as Religious Ethical Mediators: A Vocation for People of Faith in the 21st Century.”
Inaugural Address, Election to J. Erskine Love Chair, Columbia Seminary. April 2006.

Kelso Lecture. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Pittsburgh, PA. 2006.

Martin Luther King Lecture. Claremont School of Theology. Claremont, CA. 2006.

Heritage Lecture. Hood Theological Seminary. Salisbury, North Carolina. 2005.

Sermon, Faith and Values Week, Tuskegee College. Tuskegee, Alabama. 2005.

Keynote Address. National Recruitment Conference sponsored by The Fund for Theological Education, Inc. Atlanta, GA. 2005.

Panelist, “Songs We Thought We Knew”: A Conference Celebrating the Work and Thought of Delores S. Williams and the Future of Womanist Theology. Union Theological Seminary. New York, New York. April 30, 2004. (Videotaped Presentation)

Preacher, MacAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, Atlanta, GA, March 30, 2004.

Breakfast with an Author, A Discussion of *Plenty Good Room: Women versus Male Power in the Black Church*. Society of Christian Ethics. Chicago, IL. January, 2004.

Panel Presentation, “Not Separatist, Except Periodically for Health: Toward a Practice of Healthy Engagement as a Racial/Ethnic Professor.” American Academy of Religion Forum on Challenges and Opportunities of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession. Atlanta, GA. November, 2003.

Plenary Address, “Making the Connections: Gender and Race/Ethnicity in Theological Education.” Presented In Abstentia. Women in Leadership Seminar. Association of Theological Schools. Pittsburgh, PA. October, 2003.

Walter and Mary Brueggemann Lectures. “Living into Tensions: Ethical Challenges for the 21st Century Church.” Eden Theological Seminary. St. Louis, Missouri. April, 2003.

Plenary Address. “Living into Tensions; Embraced by God’s Spirit.” The Fund for Theological Education Summer Conference. Collegeville, Minnesota. June, 2002.

Keynote Address and Sermon, Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series, Duke University Divinity School, Durham, NC, April, 2002.

Plenary Address, Teaching Beyond Boundaries (A Mini Conference on Character Education),

Religious Education Association and the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, March, 2002.

Workshop Leader, College Students Retreat, Mount Zion Baptist Church, February, 2002.

Speaker, Consultation on Dealing With Diverse Identities in Asia, Sponsored by the Christian Conference of Asia and the World Council of Churches. Chiangmai, Thailand. November, 2001.

Keynote Address, Conference for Racial/Ethnic Faculty in Predominantly White Institutions. Association of Theological Schools, Pittsburgh, PA. October, 2001.

Plenary Address, Women's Week, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, October 2001.

"And You Will Be My Witnesses." Synod School Convocation Lecture and Workshop Series. Juniata College. Summer, 2001.

"Faith Communities, Low Income Urban Families, and Contested Core Values." Paper Presentation. Public Influences of Black Churches Project. The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Baltimore, MD. Fall, 2000.

Workshop leader—"Models for Women in Ministry." Clergy Women's Retreat. Christian Church Disciples of Christ. Spring, 2000.

"The Struggle for Moral Leadership: Private Lives, Public Virtues." Two-Part North Carolina Public Television Series. Kenan Center Ethics Program. Duke University. Summer 2000.

"Funding Faith-Based Activism." Women and Philanthropy Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. April 1999.

"Historical Consciousness, Cross-Cultural Conscience, Moral Imagination: Keys to Civic Responsibility in the 21st Century." Address—Moral Education in a Diverse Society Conference. Duke University. Durham, NC. April, 1999.

"How Shall They Witness Without Leaders? What Moral Vision and Type of Leadership will Guide the Black Church Into and Through the 21st Century? Anna Julia Cooper Lecture (Inaugural Address). Candler School of Theology. Atlanta, GA. January, 1999.

Resource Person and Lecturer, Models for Christian Education Lilly Conference. Messiah College. Harrisburg, PA. March, 1998.

A Dialogue on Sexuality and the Sacred. Candler School of Theology. Atlanta, GA. March, 1998.

Black Church Studies Lecture and Sermon, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary. Chicago, IL. February, 1998.

“To Write the Vision and Make it Plain (Hab. 2:2): Ethical Challenges into the 21st Century.” African American Lectures. Memphis Theological Seminary. Memphis, TN. February, 1998.

“The Teacher as Moral Educator,” Christian Education Workshop. St. Phillips African Methodist Episcopal Church. Atlanta, GA. February, 1998.

Preacher, Martin Luther King, Jr. Service. Randolph-Macon Woman’s College. Lynchburg, VA. January, 1998.

Lecture and Workshop. Anna Howard Shaw Center. Boston University. October, 1997.

“Risking Faith.” Sermon. Sisters Chapel. Spellman College. Atlanta, GA. 1997.

“The Context and Practice of Womanist Ethics in the United States.” Panel Presentation. Duetscher Evangelishcher, Kirchentag. Leipzig, Germany. Summer, 1997.

“Implications of Womanist Ethics for Addressing Racism, Sexism, and Classism in the German Context. Women’s Retreat Workshop. Evangelische Akademie. Bad Boll, Germany. Summer, 1997.

“Myths and Models: Ethical Challenges for Women in Ministry.” Lecture and Workshop. Women’s Retreat. New York Theological Seminary. New York, NY. 1996.

Lectures for the 19th Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Institute of Religion. Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Rochester, NY. 1996.

“Asking Unspeakable Questions in Our Surrogate World: Clergy Ethics in the African American Church.” Society of Christian Ethics, 1996. American Academy of Religion, 1995.

“The People of God Grappling for Answers: Moral Discourse in the Local Church.” Lecture, Christian Education Convention of the African Methodist Episcopal A.M.E. Zion Church. Salisbury, NC. 1994.

“Revisioning the Practice of Ministry in the African American Church and Community.” Seminar and Workshop. Clarkston First Baptist Church. Clarkston, GA. 1993.

Women's Studies Colloquia Lecturer. Emory University. Atlanta, GA. 1993.

Resource Person, Roundtable of Ethnic Theologians. United Methodist Church, Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Claremont, CA. 1993.

“Social Myths of Gender via Media: From Myths of Evil to Myths of Transformation.”
Presentation for Educator-Pastor Event. Synod of South Atlantic, Presbyterian Church (USA).
Rincon, GA. 1993

Preacher, Genius of Black Preaching Series. Canon Chapel, Emory University. Atlanta, GA.
1993.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecturer. Emory University. Atlanta, GA. 1992.

Parks-King Lecturer. Yale Divinity School. New Haven, CT 1990.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Distinguished Alumnae Achievement Award. Randolph-Macon Woman's College. 2006.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, Study Leave Grant, Fall 2004-Spring 2005.

Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning Grant. Director, “Bringing Peace into the Room: A Pedagogical Model Based on the Theory and Practice of Transformative Mediation”—A Faculty Development Project at Columbia Theological Seminary. Fall 2003-Spring 2004.

Participant, Wabash Center Workshop on Teaching and Learning for Mid-Career Theological School Faculty. June 2002-June 2003.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Womanist Studies Consortium, NEH Fellowship, University of Georgia. Athens, GA. 1997.

Participant, Lilly Leadership Development Seminar for Young Scholars. Duke Divinity School. 1994-1996.

Association of Theological Schools Scholarship and Research Grant. 1993-1994.

Compton Dissertation Year Fellowship. Vanderbilt University. 1987-1988.

Jean Fairfax-Muskiwinni Doctoral Fellowship. The Fund for Theological Education. 1985-1987.

Black Doctoral Fellowship. The Fund for Theological Education. 1983-1985.

Yale University Day Fellowship for further Graduate Study, 1983.

Yale University Downes Prize for Public Speaking, 1983.

North American Ministerial Fellowship. The Fund for Theological Education. 1980-1983.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1980.

CHURCH RELATED AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Positive Young Thinkers Mentoring Program. Hillside International Truth Center.
Atlanta, GA. 2008-2009.

Educational Consultant (Developed and Taught Ethics Workshops on “Wicked” for Middle and High School Students) Fox Theater. Atlanta, GA. 2008.

President and Founder, Still Waters: A Center for Ethical Formation and Practices, Inc.
(A Not-for-Profit Educational Organization) Stone Mountain, GA. <http://www.stillwatersinc.org>
2003-Present.

Chairperson, Board of Directors, Vineyard Labor Force. Atlanta, GA. 2002-2004.

Transforming Ministries. Stone Mountain, GA. 1997-2005.

Consultant, Staff Training and Curriculum Development. Camp Dorothy Walls, A.M.E. Zion Church. Black Mountain, NC. 1996.

New Members Curriculum Development. Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Atlanta, GA.
1994-1996.

Accredited Visitor, 17th World Methodist Conference. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 1996.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Certification in Healing Communities Model (Congregations and Reentry Ministry).
Philadelphia Leadership Foundation. 2015.

Editorial Board, The Westminster/John Knox “Feasting on the Word” Lectionary Commentary Series, 2006-2010.

Advisory Board, Borderlands Teaching Project (Wabash Center), Professor Jack Hill, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX. 2006-2007.

Editorial Board, Encyclopedia on Women and Religion in North America Project. 1999-2003.

Certificate in Mediation and Conflict Management Skills. (Certified as a Mediator for Workplace Disputes). The Justice Center of Atlanta. 2000.

American Academy of Religion; Chair, Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Group (1999-2004); Member, Long Range Planning Committee (2000)

The Fund for Theological Education; Chair, North American Doctoral Fellows Selection Committee (2001-Present).

Society of Christian Ethics; Editorial Board (1993-1996); Program Committee (1997); Board Member (2002-2005)

Society for the Study of Black Religion.

Association of Theological Schools; Former Chair, Committee on Race and Ethnicity (2000-2002); Executive Committee (2002-2005).

Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion, Board Member (2001-2003).