

Gennifer Benjamin Brooks

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EDUCATION

2005 – Doctor of Philosophy - Liturgical Studies – Drew University, New Jersey. Dissertation: *An Ecclesial Homiletic: The “Pure Word of God” on Holy Living in the Sermons of John Wesley.*
2003 – Master of Philosophy - Liturgical Studies – Drew University, New Jersey.
2001 – Doctor of Ministry - Metro-Urban Ministry, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey. Dissertation/Project: *Bridging the Gap: Preparing a Congregation for Youth Ministry*
1990 – Master of Divinity, summa cum laude, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey
1983 – Master of Business Administration, Pace University, New York
1978 – Bachelor of Business Administration, cum laude, Pace University, New York

ORDINATION

1993 – Elder in full connection, New York Conference, The United Methodist Church
1990 – Deacon, Probationary Member, New York Conference, The United Methodist Church
1983 – Minister, Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Church, New York
1980 – Evangelist, Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Church, New York

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

July 2003 – Present
Ernest and Bernice Styberg Associate Professor of Preaching – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary AND Director of the Styberg Preaching Institute.

September 2002 – June 2003
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship – New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

September 1996 – August 2000
Assistant Dean – New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ.

MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE:

July 1995 – June 2003
Pastor – Bethany United Methodist Church, Brooklyn, New York.
February 1992 – June 1995
Pastor – Asbury United Methodist Church, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.
July 1990 – January 1992
Associate Pastor – St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Middletown, New York.
September 1986 – June 1990
Student Assistant Minister – Grace United Methodist Church, St. Albans, New York.
November 1980 – December 1985
Assistant to the Minister – Good Shepherd Evangelical Spiritual Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York.

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS EXPERIENCE:

May 2008 – Present
Consulting Partner – Stewardship Solutions.

June 1980 - March 1991

Computer Systems Development Manager – Avon Products Inc., Rye, New York.

December 1969 – June 1980

Computer Programmer to Assistant Secretary (Bank Officer) – Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, New York, New York.

OTHER MINISTRY RELATED EXPERIENCE

Board Member and Finance Committee Chair – Anchor House Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Facility of The New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

Workshop and Retreat Leader in the areas of Christian Education and Church School Teaching, Spiritual Development for clergy and laity, and Time Management.

Board Member and Finance Chair – National Black Methodists for Church Renewal

CATeam Leader providing training to members of the Cokesbury Action Team, pastors and Christian educators in the use of Christian Education materials provided by Cokesbury.

Member of the Advisory Board for Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, Croton on Hudson, NY.

COMMITTEES AND AFFILIATIONS

Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. – Harry Hosier member – National, Jurisdictional and Local levels

Clergywomen's Caucus – New York Conference The United Methodist Church

Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church – Founding Member

New York Conference of the United Methodist Church – Past leadership roles - Secretary of Episcopacy Committee, Chair of the Rules Committee, the Worship Committee, the Education Committee and the Budget Committee of the Conference Council on Ministries.

New York Conference Black Clergy Caucus – The United Methodist Church

PUBLICATIONS

- “Preaching” in Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies, William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby, editors. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Gennifer Benjamin Brooks. *Good News Preaching*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2009.
- “The Creation of an Africana Worship Ritual: Baptism in the *Shouters* of Trinidad” in *Companion to The Africana Worship Book*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2008.
- Taylor Burton-Edwards, editor. *Living into the Mystery: A United Methodist Guide for Celebrating Holy Communion*. Nashville: General Board of Discipleship, 2007. www.gbod.org/worship, Contributor.
- Hymn Lyrics: “Epiphany” - #64; “Raised, He’s Been Raised from the Dead” - #77; “Step (for Ushers)” - #94; “Watch Night” - #129; “Water Flowing Free” - #193 in *Zion Still Sings: For Every Generation*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 2007.
- “An Order of Service for the Dedication of *Zion Still Sings: For Every Generation*.” www.gbod.org/worship/music/article.
- Program and Worship Booklet – “Bridges of Hope” – The United Methodist Church Mission Gathering and Forum - August 5-8, 2007.
- “Ain’t That Good News: Exploring the Sacred Task of the Preacher.” *The African American Pulpit*, Winter 2007-2008, 6-8.

- “Preaching: a Liturgical Act.” *Circuit Rider*, January/February 2006, 11-12.
- Sermon: “A Matter of Choice.” *The African American Pulpit*, Winter 2005-2006, 37-41.
- Sermons: “The Right Time;” “The Right Choice;” “The Right Action.” *Homily Service*, June 2005, 22-24; 34-36; 46-48.
- “The Worth of Prayer.” *Response*, July, 2000.
- Gennifer Benjamin Brooks. *Praise the Lord - Litanies Prayers and Occasional Services*. Lima, Ohio: CSS Publishing Company, Inc., 1996.
- Kim Martin Sadler, Editor. *The Book of Daily Prayer*. Cleveland, Ohio: United Church Press, 1996. Contributor.

- **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- “Singing Our Song in a Strange Land” – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Black History Month CBE Panel - February 20, 2008
- “Women: To Preach or Not to Preach” presented to National Consortium of Black Women in Ministry – Professional Development Workshop, May 12, 2007.
- “A Clarion Call to Excellence” presented at Garrett-Evangelical Black Seminarians Graduation Banquet, May 3, 2007.
- Christ's Word in the World: Immigration and Mission in Ministry: “The Caribbean Connection: A Liturgical Community in Action” presented at Anna Howard Shaw Center of Boston University School of Theology, March 21, 2007
- “How can the Church and the Academy be in partnership as we continue to look at vital ministry in the 21st Century?” presented to The International United Methodist Clergywomen's Consultation - Multi-Ethnic Panel of 5 Theologians, August 16, 2006.
- “Preaching Justice: Courting Violence against Women in the Book of Judges” presented to American Academy of Religion - Midwest Region Annual Meeting, Sacred Texts Section: “Religion and Violence.” March 31-April 1, 2006.
- “Black Preaching – An African-American Tradition” presented at Garrett-Evangelical CBE Reunion, February 2006.

WORKSHOPS

- “Claiming Our Good News: Preaching as Spiritual Formation” – Northern Illinois Conference Pastoral Retreat - September 23-25, 2007.
- “Preaching with Power” – North Indiana Conference Continuing Education Event – April 18-19, 2007.
- “Preaching as Witness” – Detroit Conference: Detroit East District – Bishop’s Event Evangelism and Stewardship - March 3, 2007.
- “The Purpose of Preaching: Delivering the Message” – Developing and Preaching an Effective Sermon, Session Three - New Life Covenant Oakwood Church Ministerial Development Class – April 25, 2007.
- “The Purpose of Preaching: The What and How of Preaching” – Developing and Preaching an Effective Sermon, Session Two - New Life Covenant Oakwood Church Ministerial Development Class – March 7, 2007.
- “The Purpose of Preaching: The Who and What of Preaching” – Developing and Preaching an Effective Sermon, Session One - New Life Covenant Oakwood Church Ministerial Development Class - February 28, 2007.
- “How Shall She Preach?” – National Consortium for Black Women in Ministry, Saturday, October 28, 2006.

“Preaching For Congregational Development” – Northern Illinois Conference Institute for Congregational Development and Redevelopment, October 4, 2006.

- “Preaching for Discipleship” – North Indiana Conference Continuing Education Event – April 6-7, 2006.
- “Preaching With Power” – Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church Annual Meeting - March 19-21, 2006.
- “Worship” – Worship Committee of Trinity United Methodist Church, Mt. Prospect, IL - November 14, 2005.
- “Preaching: A Worship Experience” – New Life Covenant Oakwood Church Ministerial Development Class, November 8, 2005.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

- *Commentary on the Lectionary*. Contributor. Westminster John Knox Press, 2011 publication anticipated.
- *Beyond Trouble and Grace: Finding Good News for Preaching in Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012 publication anticipated.
- *Walking With our Bible Sisters: 365 Days of Devotions on the Women of the Bible*. Completion anticipated 2010.
- *The New Interpreter’s Theological Companion to the Lectionary*. Contributor. Nashville: Abingdon Press.
- *To God Be the Glory: Liturgy, Prayers and Services for Church and Home*. Completion anticipated 2011.