

# Reginald Blount

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1229 Deerfield Parkway #301  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

Telephone 847-736-8771

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

#### NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Kellogg School of Management Executive Scholar in Non-Profit Management, 2016

#### NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

*Ph. D., Joint Graduate Program in Religious and Theological Studies with Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2005*

**Focus:** *Christian Education and Youth Ministry*

**Research Interests:** *African American Christian Faith Formation; Christian Education Theory; Christian Education and the Black Church; African American Youth Culture; Adolescent/Young Adult Identity Formation, Congregational Leadership*

**Dissertation Title:** *Educating Toward Whole-Making: Providing African American Youth "Faith Passage" From Adolescence to Adulthood*

#### EMORY UNIVERSITY

*Master of Divinity, Candler School of Theology, 1995*

*Masters Honors Thesis: "Ontological Vocation: A Constructive Theological Quest"*

*M.Div. Concentration: Christian Education*

#### TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

*Bachelor of Science, Chemical Engineering, School of Engineering and Architecture, 1984*

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

#### GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Assistant Professor of Formation, Youth and Culture, 2006-present*

*Co-Executive Director, Garrett-Evanston CDF Freedom School, 2015-present*

*Advisor, Strategic Leadership in Black Congregations DMin Cohort, 2017-present*

*Interim Director, Center for the Church and the Black Experience, 2007-2009*

*Instructor, Christian Education and Youth Ministry, 1999-2006*

*Director of Faith Passage, 1999-2006*

*Adjunct Professor, 1997-1999*

#### PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Co-Mentor, Pastoral Leadership and Community Engagement DMin. Cohort, 2019-present*

#### LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY IN CHICAGO

*Adjunct Professor, "Introduction to Christian Education" Fall 1999*

## LILLY ENDOWMENT GRANTS

Director, A.M.E. Fourth Episcopal District Thriving in Ministry Initiative, 2017-present  
Director, Garrett-Evangelical Young Adult Initiative: Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships, 2016-present

Steering Committee Member, *The Confirmation Project* 2013-2018

(<https://theconfirmationproject.com/>)

Member, *High School Youth Theology Seminar*, 2012-2014

Dean, *Youth Theology Institute Summer Academy*, Candler School of Theology 1997, 1998.  
1999

## CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Local Church)

*Ordained Elder, Atlanta/North Georgia Annual Conference, May 1996*

*Pastor, Arnett Chapel AME Church, Chicago, IL, 2012-present*

*Pastor, Trinity AME Church, Waukegan, IL, 2000-2012*

*Pastor, Eternal Flame AME Church, North Chicago, IL, 1998 - 2000*

*Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Iowa City, IA, March 1997 - November 1998*

*Assistant Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Iowa City, IA, 1995 - 1997*

*Associate Minister, St. Philip AME Church, Atlanta, GA, 1991 - 1995*

### AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Conference and Connectional)

*Elected Representative of Chicago Conference to A.M.E. Church General Board, 2016-present*

*Vice-Chair, A.M.E. Church Commission on Christian Education, 2016-present*

*Vice Chair, Board of Christian Education, Fourth Episcopal District, 2018-present*

*Director of Christian Education, Fourth Episcopal District, AME Church, 2012-2018*

*Fourth Year Studies Chair, Board of Examiners, Chicago Annual Conference, AME Church, 2008-present*

*Director of Christian Education, Chicago Annual Conference, 2005-2012*

*Director of Youth Evangelism, Dept. of Church Growth and Development, AME Church, 2000-2008*

*Founding Vice-Chair, Fellowship of Church Educators, Dept. of Christian Education, AME Church, 1996-2004*

## COMMUNITY

*Executive Director, Morgan Park Children's Defense Fund Freedom School, 2018-present*

*Board Member, Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County, 2009-2015*

*Community Consultant, Samaritan Center for Congregations, 2013-2016*

*Co-Founder, Manna Garden Initiative (food security ministry), 2010-2012*

*Chair, Lake County American Cancer Society African American Task Force, 2009-2012*

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

*Member, Ecumenical Youth Ministries Staff Team, National Council of Churches, USA, 2000-2008*

*Member, Institute for Youth Ministry Advisory Council, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2004-2016*

*Member, United Methodist YouthWorker Movement Advisory Council, 2008-2012*

## TUSKEGEE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Southeastern Regional Director, 1991-94*

*National Convention Planner, 1992-94*

*National Third Vice President, 1988-91*

*Member-at-Large, 1984-88*

## TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

*Student Government President, 1983-84*

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS AND CHURCH WORKSHOPS

Co-Presenter with Gina Robinson, Association of Practical Theology at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, *"Digging Deep Wells: Ella Baker as a Model for Academic Apprenticeship,"* November 2019

Panelist, The Aspen Institute Inclusive America Project at the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, *"Civil Society and Religious Pluralism in a Polarized Nation,"* November 2019

Presenter, Garrett-Evangelical Connectional Learning Thriving Ministry with Young Adults: Holy Yearnings, Holy Listening, Holy Partnerships Webinar Series, *"Creating a Culture of Radical Hospitality with Young Adults,"* September 2019

Presenter, Children's Defense Fund Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, *"From Sabbath Schools to Freedom Schools: Christian Education and the Power of Voice,"* July 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015

Presenter, Garrett-Evangelical Connectional Learning Change Management Seminar, *"Leader as Mission-Driven Change Agent,"* June 2019

Presenter, A.M.E. Fourth Episcopal District Planning Conference, *"Can You See It: A Call to Visionary Leadership,"* October 2018

Panelist, Yale Youth Ministry Institute Scholar-Practitioner Collaborative, *"Institutional Reflections on Inroads and Insights in Our Work with Young People,"* April 2018

Co-Presenter with Dr. Virginia Lee, Garrett On the Road, Madison First United Methodist Church, Madison, Wisconsin, *"Something Inside So Strong: Faith, Education, and the Sacredness of All Children,"* February 2018

Keynote Speaker, UMC Northern Illinois Conference United Voices for Children Breakfast, *"Keeping Covenant,"* June 2017

Presenter, A.M.E. Seventh Episcopal District God's First Holy Convocation, Florence, South Carolina, *"With Head and Heart: Equipping Christian Educators for Today's World,"* March 2017

Presenter, Memphis Theological Seminary African American Christian Education Conference, *"How to Care for a Masterpiece,"* February 2017

Consultant and Presenter, Northwestern College Youth Theology Institute "Living Your Faith" Initiative, Orange City, Iowa, January 2017

Co-Presenter with Dr. Virginia Lee, Association of Practical Theology at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, *"We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest: Pedagogies of Justice,"* November 2015

Co-Presenter with Dr. Virginia Lee, Religious Education Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, *"Reimagining Christian Education Through the Lens of Child Advocacy,"* November 2015

Presenter, A.M.E. Fourth District Planning Conference, *"Mission-Minded Ministry,"* October 2015

Presenter, Luther Seminary Rethinking Confirmation Conference, *"Rethinking Confirmation: The Power to Belong,"* July 2015  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guANFdDUGU4>

Presenter, Princeton Theological Seminary Forum for Youth Ministry, *"Teaching Jesus,"* April 2014

Presenter, Progressive Youth Ministry Conference, Chicago, Illinois, *"The Power of Voices: Learning Youth Ministry from the Black Church,"* March 2014

Workshop Leader, A.M.E. Michigan Annual Conference North District Youth Ministry Workshop, *"Growing the Church Through Youth Ministries,"* November 2013

Theologian-in-Residence and Presenter, Princeton Theological Seminary Forum for Youth Ministry, *"Teaching to Transgress"* and *"The Power of Voices,"* April 2013

Presenter, North Park University Justice Summit, Chicago, Illinois, *"Preparing Prophetic Young People,"* March 2012

Presenter, International Association of the Study of Youth Ministry Conference, Pretoria, South Africa, *"Toward Whole-Making: The Power of Voices in the Faith Formation of Black Youth,"* January 2011

Preacher, Noon Day Service, A.M.E. Chicago Annual Conference, September 2010

Workshop Leader, Princeton Theological Seminary Forum for Youth Ministry, April 2010

Keynote Speaker, Northern Illinois Conference Youth Leadership Conference, September 2009

Keynote Speaker, Preacher and Workshop Leader, Generation 2008: National Anglican Youth Ministry Forum, Anglican Church of Canada, June 2008

Keynote Speaker and Preacher, Ministries in Christian Education Meeting, A.M.E. Church Department of Christian Education, April 2008

Workshop Leader, Church Growth and Evangelism Conference, A.M.E. Church Department of Church Growth and Development, January 2008

Keynote Speaker, Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, *"Intergenerational Ministry: We Need Each Other to Survive,"* June 2007

Workshop Leader, Youth Ministry Institute, Wisconsin Annual Conference, UMC, April 2007

Preacher, ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza, Tampa, FL, February 2007

Keynote Speaker, Youth Alive! 2007, California-Pacific Annual Conference, UMC, February 2007

Preacher and Workshop Panelist, "Antiphony" (Young Adult Vocational Event), Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, December 2006

Workshop Leader, "A Festival of Hope: Visions of Youth Ministry Past, Present, and Future," Youth Hope-Builders Academy, Interdenominational Theological Center, September 2006

Keynote Speaker and Preacher, National Campus Ministry Association Conference, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, OR, June 28 - July 2, 2006

Lecturer, Iowa Academy for Youth Ministry, Iowa Annual Conference, UMC, "The Adolescent World: Looking Beneath the Veil," May 2006

Keynote Speaker, Youth Strike for Christ 2006, Iowa Annual Conference, UMC, February 2006

Workshop Leader, Church Growth and Evangelism Conference, Department of Church Growth and Development, AME Church, January 2006

Preacher and Workshop Leader, North Central Jurisdiction Division of Ministries with Young People, UMC, July 2005

Preacher, Outreach 2005, Northern Illinois Conference, UMC, September, 2005

Workshop Leader and Preacher, CONNECTIONS 2005, GBOD, UMC, *"Seven Spiritual Yearnings of Youth"* and *"Citybred-God Formed: Pastoring Urban Youth,"* March 2005

Keynote Lecturer, Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry: *"In Search of Living Waters: The Seven Spiritual Yearnings of Youth"* and *"Journeying with Youth toward Living Waters,"* January 2005

Preacher, United Methodist Camp/Retreat Leaders' Gathering: *"Moving in the Spirit,"* January 2005

Preacher, Princeton Theological Seminary Forum on Youth Ministry: *"Longing for God,"* April 2004

Workshop Leader, South District-Indiana Annual Conference, AME Church, *"Equipping the Saints: The Power of Christian Education,"* April 2003

Workshop Leader, Christian Education Department, Michigan Annual Conference, AMEZ Church: *"Feed My Lambs: Pastoring Youth,"* June 2003

Workshop Leader, Transforming Church Conference, Martin Temple AMEZ Church: *"Transforming Ministry with Youth,"* November 2003

Preacher, Youth Theological Initiative Conference, Emory University: *"Engaging the Prophetic Voices of Youth,"* September 2002

Workshop Leader, CONNECTIONS 2002, United Methodist Church General Board of Discipleship, January, 2002

Presenter, *"Educating for Whole-Making: The Black Church as Agency for African American Identity Formation,"* Association of Professors and Researchers in Religious Education, 1996

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Blount, Reginald and Virginia A. Lee (ed.) Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth, Friendship Press, Inc., 2019

Blount, Reginald and Gordon S. Mikoski. "A Spirit-Led People: Traditioned Innovation for Conformation in Congregations and Denominations" in Cultivating Teen Faith: Insights from the Confirmation Project, edited by Richard R. Osmer and Katie M. Douglass, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2018, p. 114-125

Blount, Reginald. "From Sabbath Schools to Freedom Schools: Christian Education and the Power of Voice" in Educating for a Redemptive Community: Essays in Honor of Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain, edited by Denise Janssen, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2015, p. 65-77

Blount, Reginald. "Toward Whole-Making: The Power of Voice in the Faith Formation of Black Youth." *Journal of Youth and Theology* volume 10; number ½ (2011) p. 35-47

Blount, Reginald. "Hearing Voices." *Religious Education* volume 102:2 (2007) p. 108-110

"Longing for Identity," Cloud of Witnesses: Belonging to God. Audio Journal, Volume 8, 2005.

Blount, Reginald. "Journeying with Youth Toward Living Waters." *Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture*, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2005

Blount, Reginald. "In Search of Living Waters: The Seven Spiritual Yearning of Youth." Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary, 2005

Blount, Reginald. "Faith Passage" in Making God Real for a New Generation, edited by Craig K. Miller and MaryJane Pierce Norton, Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2003, p. 141-144.

Selected Sermons in Scripture Talks: 50 Creative Messages for Youth, Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2004, p. 69-83.

"Stir Up the Gifts," in Information Youth Ministries, United Methodist Newsletter Series for Family and Life-Span Ministries, Fall 2002,  
<http://www.gbod.org/YOuth/newsletter/fall2002/page8.html>

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

*Religious Education Association*  
*American Academy of Religion*