

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

May 2014 - Present

Ernest and Bernice Styberg Professor of Homiletics – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Director of the Styberg Preaching Institute, Director of Doctor of Ministry Programs (2018) and Dean of the ACTS (Association of Chicago Theological Schools) Doctor of Ministry in Preaching Program

October 2008 – May 2014

Ernest and Bernice Styberg Associate Professor of Homiletics – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Director of the Styberg Preaching Institute.

February 2005 – October 2008

Assistant Professor of Preaching – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Director of the Styberg Preaching Institute.

July 2003 – February 2005

Instructor in Preaching – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

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.

ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

Academy of Homiletics – Chair of Preaching and Worship Seminar

North American Academy of Liturgy – President (2020 – 2022, Vice President/President elect (2019),

Convener of Word in Worship Seminar (2008 – 2013)

American Academy of Religion

COMMITTEES AND AFFILIATIONS

New York Annual Conference - Chair of Conference Rules Committee

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, Sage

Past leadership roles:

New York Conference of the United Methodist Church — 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

- An Invitation to New Beginnings, New Growth. The Upper Room Disciplines 2022: January 31 – February 7, Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2021.
- “Introduction” and “This is OUR Story: Black Clergy Women Preaching through Cultural Boundaries,” Liturgy: Preaching and Culture June–July 2020, Journal of the Liturgical Conference Volume 35, Number 3, 2020.
- Working Preacher Online Commentary on John 18:1 – 19:42 (Good Friday 4/10/200; John 10:11-18 (4th Sunday of Easter – 5/3/20); John 15:1-8 (5th Sunday of Easter – 5/10/20); John 15:9-17 (6th Sunday of Easter – 5/17/20).
- Working Preacher Online Commentary on 2 Samuel 7: 1-14a (7/22/18); 2 Samuel 11: 1-15 (7/29/19); 2 Samuel 11: 26 – 12:13a (8/5/19); 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 (8/12/19).
- *Connections*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2018, Commentary on Matthew 14:22-23; Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28; Matthew 16: 13-20 and 2019, Commentary on Mark 2:23 – 3:6; Mark 9:2-9
- The Prophet on the Margins, in *Preaching Prophetic Care: Buildings Bridges to Justice*, Eugene, OR: Pickwick Publications, 2018.
- Gennifer Benjamin Brooks. *Bible Sisters: A Year of Devotions with the Women of the Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2017.
- The Challenge in the Call. The Upper Room Disciplines 2017: August 28 – September 3. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2016.
- “Cutting Edges: A Different Type of Violence,” Aware, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2016.
- Commentary on Old Testament texts for Advent 2, 3, 4, and Christmas Day - Year C, Working Preacher Online Commentary, 2015.
- Lectionary Homiletics, Commentary on Mark 13: 24-37 (First Sunday of Advent) 11/30/14
- Pastoral Perspective on Matthew 5:33-37, Matthew 5:38-48, & Matthew 6:1-6 in *Feasting on the Gospels*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
- Commentary for Proper 9 – 13, Year A in *The New Interpreter’s Theological Companion to the Lectionary*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013.
- Gennifer Benjamin Brooks. *Unexpected Grace: Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2012.
- Gennifer Benjamin Brooks, editor. *Black United Methodists Preach!* Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2012.
- Commentary for All Saints Day Years A, B and C in *Preaching God’s Transforming Justice*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011, 2012 & 2013.
- Response to Inductive Preaching Renewed by Fred B. Craddock. In *The Renewed Homiletic*, edited by O. Wesley Allen, Jr. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- “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: Offering the Gospel in Every Sermon*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim 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.
- A Theology of Acceptance in *Those preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection*. Valley Forge: Judson Press, 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 AND LECTURES PRESENTED

- The Missionary Connection: White Preaching in the British Colonies of the Caribbean – Academy of Homiletics, December, 2018.
- 2 Lectures on *Unexpected Grace*, Swedish Preaching Program (in conjunction with ACTS DMin in Preaching Program) Uppsala, Sweden, November 2016.
- 4 Lectures on *Good News Preaching*, Methodist Theological Institute, Thanlyin, Yangon, Myanmar, October 2016.
- 3 Lectures on Preaching and Marginalization - "Preaching to the Margins;" "Preaching from the Margins;" "With Jesus on the Margins" - Anabaptist Mennonite Theological Seminary, March 2015.
- "The Sacraments in The United Methodist Church" Strengthening the Black Church for the Twenty-First Century (SBC21 - General Conference Initiative of The United Methodist Church), Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, April 2015.
- Morning Lecturer at Hampton University Ministers Conference - 3 Lectures on Conference Theme - "Preaching Forward;" "Forward Preaching;" Preaching Everywhere." Hampton Virginia, June, 2015.
- "Reaching Out, Reaching In: A Proclamation from the Margins" - Promotion (to Full Professor) Lecture, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, October, 2014. Also presented as a paper to the North American Academy of Liturgy, January 2015.
- "Lift Every Voice," 161st Anniversary Lecture; Fordham United Methodist Church, Bronx, NY, October, 2014.
- Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS), Wardlaw Lecturer, "To Hear; To See; To Feel: The Awesome Challenge and Joy of Proclaiming Good News" - July, 2014
- "How Shall They Hear? Preaching Beyond the Cacophony of Birdsongs," *The Covenant Quarterly* LXXII, nos. 1-2, February/May 2014.
- "Drama and Delivery in Preaching" – Academy of Homiletics: Bible and Hermeneutics Work Group, November, 2013.

- “Inside the Preacher’s Studio” – Samuel D. Proctor Lecture – ACTS DMin in Preaching Program, July, 2012.
- “How Will They Hear? Preaching Beyond the Cacophony of Birdsongs” – Lecture 1 – “The Problem” – Lecture 2 “A Solution” – North Park Theological Seminary, February 2012.
- “Socioeconomics and Media” in Media and Preaching Project – Word in Worship Seminar, North American Academy of Liturgy – January 2011, and 2012.
- John Wesley’s Ecclesial Homiletic: A Call for Holy Living in Church and Community – Papers included: “Lukewarm or Strangely warmed: The Church as Holy Place?” “Grace upon Grace: A Holy Experiment in Wholeness of Heart and Life” “Revived, Renewed, Reclaimed: Preaching Holiness of Heart and Life” “Rethinking Wesley’s Church: A Call for Holy Living” presented at John Wesley Theological Institute, February, 2011.
- “Hiding in Plain Sight” – Convocation for Pastors of Black Churches, General Board of Discipleship, The United Methodist Church, January 2011.
- North American Academy of Religion. “Socioeconomics and Media” – January 2011.
- North American Academy of Religion. “Preaching Good News from Difficult Texts” – January 2010.
- “Rituals of the Diaspora: Africana Worship Practices in Caribbean Islands.” Sabbatical Lecture, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, February, 2009.
- Bible Study: *For Such a Time as This* – “The Issue of Time” “Claiming God’s Time” “Living in Kingdom Time” presented New York Annual Conference, June 2008.
- “How Shall They Hear? The Challenge of a Verbal Art in a Visual World” Inauguration and Installation Lecture in Ernest and Bernice Styberg Chair in Preaching, April 2008.
- “Singing Our Song in a Strange Land” – Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Black History Month CBE Panel - February 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 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 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 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/April 2006.
- “Black Preaching – An African-American Tradition” presented at Garrett-Evangelical CBE Reunion, February 2006.

WORKSHOPS

- “Preaching Joy And Peace In Turbulent Times” – Chicago southern District, Northern Illinois Conference of the UMC, December 2019.
- Black Clergywomen of the UMC – Annual Meeting 2017 and 2018 – Preaching Lab and Plenary Speaker.
- “Preaching Good News in Uncertain and Contentious Times” – New York Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church, (upcoming June 2017).

- “Women’s Weekend 2017: Sistahs on F.I.R.E: Loving the Lord, Living the Word” – St Mark UMC, Taylors, SC, May, 2017.
- “Preaching Lent and Easter Texts for Contemporary Times” - Styberg Preaching Institute Workshop, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, January 2017.
- “Preaching Advent for Contemporary Times” - Styberg Preaching Institute Workshop, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, November 2016.
- Leadership Retreat, *Leadership of Pastor and Laity*, Methodist Church (Lower Myanmar), October 2016.
- Church Administration and Leadership Conference; Kwanglim Seminar - *John Wesley’s Ecclesial Homiletic: A Call to Holy Living in Church and Community*. Kwanglim, South Korea, September 2016.
- “Worship and Liturgy” - 2016 Leadership Training: Metropolitan District, New York Annual Conference, February 2016.
- "Preaching Advent Hope in the Midst of a Storm" - Styberg Preaching Institute Workshop, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, October 2015.
- Preaching Lab at Annual Meeting of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church, August 2015.
- "Beautiful Feet: Preaching Real Good News" – Black Theologian Day in Ohio UMC Conference, May 2013.
- “Singing in Harmony: Ingredients of Grace” – Asbury Theological Seminary, March 2013.
- “The Journey of Lent as Good News” – UMC Chicago (IL) Southern District, February 2012.
- “Preaching and Teaching the Texts of Lent and Holy Week” – Wisconsin Council of Churches – January, 2012.
- “Leadership of Pastor and Laity: A Divinely Dynamic Partnership” – St. Mark UMC, Sumpter, South Carolina, January 2012.
- *“Restoration Beyond Isolation for a Liberated Community”* 2011 Convocation for Pastors of Black (UMC) Churches, January 2011.
- “Lord I Want to be a Better Preacher” – Chicago District, AME Church, June, 2011.
- “Preaching for Evangelism” – Northern Illinois Conference – October 2009.
- “Aint That Good News” – Lake Street UMC Preaching Series, Auclair, WI, October 2008.
- “Encountering the Living Lord through Preaching.” Salzburg Preaching Workshop – Christian Theological Seminary, October 2008.
- “Claiming Our Good News: Preaching as Spiritual Formation” – Northern Illinois Conference Pastoral Retreat - September 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 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 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 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 2007.

- “How Shall She Preach?” – National Consortium for Black Women in Ministry, Saturday, October 2006.
- “Preaching For Congregational Development” – Northern Illinois Conference Institute for Congregational Development and Redevelopment, October 2006.
- “Preaching for Discipleship” – North Indiana Conference Continuing Education Event – April 2006.
- “Preaching With Power” – Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church Annual Meeting - March 2006.
- “Worship” – Worship Committee of Trinity United Methodist Church, Mt. Prospect, IL - November 2005.
- “Preaching: A Worship Experience” – New Life Covenant Oakwood Church Ministerial Development Class, November 2005.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

- *Preaching and the Margins*
- *Anointed for Good News: The Holy Spirit and Proclamation*
- *To God Be the Glory: Liturgy, Prayers and Services for Church and Home*
- *Rituals of a Diasporan Community: Worship and Community Rituals in Trinidad*