

**RAQUEL ST. CLAIR LETTSOME**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

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**EDUCATIONAL HISTORY**

Ph.D., Biblical Studies: New Testament Princeton Theological Seminary	2005
M.Div., Concentration in Biblical Studies Princeton Theological Seminary	1995
B.A., Religious Studies Yale University	1992

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Mark: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching.* Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2023.

*Call and Consequences: A Womanist Reading of Mark's Gospel.* Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 2008.

*The African Presence in the Bible: Gospel Sermons Rooted in History.* Coauthored with William D. Watley. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2000.

**Peer Reviewed Journal Article**

"Mary's Slave Song: The Tensions and Turnarounds of Faithfully Reading *Doule* in the Magnificat." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (2021).

"So What Does the Bible Say About This...? Context, Questions, and Correspondence as a Means of Refracting a Cultural Lens for African American Biblical Interpretation." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 65 (3): 276-284 (2011).

## Essays in Edited Volumes

“Matthew 16:21-28 – Proper 17 (Sunday between August 28-September 3)” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

“Matthew 18:15-20 – Proper 18 (Sunday between September 4-September 10)” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

“Matthew 18:21-35 – Proper 19 (Sunday between September 11-September 17)” in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World*. Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

“John 1:43-51 Pastoral Perspective.” In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

“John 2:1-12 Pastoral Perspective.” In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

“John 2:13-25 Pastoral Perspective.” In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, Ky: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

“Mark.” Pages 127-172 in *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Edited by Margaret Aymer, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sanchez. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 2014.

“Preaching from the Overflow.” Pages 115-130 in *More Power in the Pulpit: How America’s Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Edited by Cleophus J. LaRue. Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

“Womanist Criticism.” In *New Interpreter’s Bible Handbook on Preaching*. Edited by Paul Wilson, Jana Childers, Cleophus J. LaRue, and John Rottman. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2008.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation.” Pages 54-62 in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Fortress Press, 2007.

## **Web-Based Publications**

“Lectionary Commentary: Christmas.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Compact Unit: Anti-Addiction Sunday.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Usher’s Day.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Palm Sunday.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

“Lectionary Commentary: Advent/World AIDS Day.” In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

## **Other Publications**

“The Shepherd’s Staff: The Role of the Assistant Pastor.” In *Doing Church, Vol. 2*. New Seasons Press, 2010.

“Interpreting Scripture for the Purpose of Writing a Sermon.” In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2004.

“Prayerful Exegesis,” In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2002.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Honors Thesis in Bible at Princeton Theological Seminary (1995)

Expository Preaching Prize at Princeton Theological Seminary (1995)

William Fries, III Scholarship at Yale University (1988- 1992)

National Merit Scholar: National Negro Achievement Scholarship (1988)

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

Dissertation Fellowship from the Fund for Theological Education (1999 – 2000)

President’s Doctoral Fellowship at Princeton Theological Seminary (1995 –1999)

New Testament Fellowship at Princeton Theological Seminary (1995)

## **INVITED LECTURES/WORKSHOPS**

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Lilly Roundtable Capstone Conference, Princeton, NJ (2020)

“Less Stress Preaching and Prep” Festival of Homiletics, Virtual (2020)

“The Year of Restoration (Joel 2:25),” 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2018.

“Preaching Sermon Series,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2018

“A New Thing (Isaiah 43:8-12),” 1<sup>st</sup> Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2017.

“Take a S.E.A.T: 4 Practical Steps for Weekly Sermon Prep,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017

“Prophetic Preaching: Are You Prepared to Die?” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Medical Humanities Retreat, Baylor University, Waco, TX 2017

“What Does the Lord Require? Exploring the Tensions of Doing Ministry During Changing Times (Micah 6),” Woman in Ministry Conference, Atlanta, GA 2016.

“Introduction to the Gospel of Mark: Follow Me?” Baylor University Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX, November 2015

“Preparing the Preacher,” “Prophetic Preaching,” and “Responses to Prophetic Preaching,” Herbst Alumni/ae Conference, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, April 2015

“The Sovereignty of God: Do You Really Believe God is in Charge?” 4th Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2014.

“A Theological Approach to Preaching the Whole Counsel of God. Acts 20:17-38,” 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2013.

“Making the Connect: Exegeting the Text and Context for Effective Communication,” National Bible Conference, California State Baptist Convention, Fairfield, CA, March 2011

“African American Women and Preaching,” at Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA, March 2009.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation and Preaching,” at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 2008.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation,” at Drew School of Theology, Madison, NJ, October 2007.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **United Lutheran Seminary**

*Adjunct Instructor*

Womanist Biblical Interpretation and Preaching (2021)

### **Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO**

*Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the New Testament (2020-2021)*

Introduction to the New Testament (2020, 2021)

Greek Grammar (2021)

Gospel of Mark (Greek Exegesis) (2021)

Womanist Biblical Interpretation (2021)

### **Raquel S. Lettsome, LLC (online course creator)**

*Founder and CEO*

Greek for Preachers and Teachers (2020)

Sunday Keeps Coming (2020-present)

Less Stress Preaching Prep (2018-present)

### **Payne Theological Seminary, OH**

The Gospel of Mark (Fall, 2017)

### **Payne Theological Seminary, OH**

Introduction to the New Testament (Online, Fall 2015, 2016)

### **Payne Theological Seminary, OH (Joint Summer Program with Lutheran Theological Seminary, PA)**

Preaching Biblical Stewardship (Summers 2009, 2010)

### **Discipleship Development Institute, Brooklyn, NY**

eLearning Courses

Call and Consequences: A Womanist View of Suffering and Discipleship (Fall 2010)

Abiding in the Vine: An Interpretation of John 15 (Spring 2010)

What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?: An Introduction to the Gospel of Mark (Fall 2009)

OnSite Courses

The African Presence in the Bible (Spring 2010)

Teacher Training Seminar for Christian Educators (Fall 2009)

**St. James Christian Learning Center, Newark, NJ**

Introduction to the New Testament (Spring 2001, 2003)

Introduction to Christian Theology (Spring 2000, 2003)

The Gospel of Mark (Spring 2002)

Biblical Interpretation (Fall 2002)

The Historical Witness of the Christian Church (Fall 2001)

Introduction to the Old Testament (Fall 2000)

**Princeton Theological Seminary**

Teaching Assistant, The Gospel of Mark (1999-2000)

Teaching Assistant, Preaching Biblical Stewardship (1997-1998)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to the New Testament (1996-1997)

Tutor, New Testament Greek (1995-1996)

Teaching Assistant, New Testament Greek (1994-1995)

Writing Center Tutor (1993- 1994)

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

SBL Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession (1996-1997)

**ECCLESIAL EXPERIENCE****Appointments**

Union AME Church (Warwick, NY)

Associate Minister and Bible Study Instructor (2013-Present)

The Emmaus Community (Chicago Heights, IL)

Church Consultant (2013)

St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (Newark, NJ)

Lead Minister, St. James Second Site Worship Service (2008-2012)

Director, St. James Christian Learning Center (1999-2005)

Executive Minister (1998 – 2012)

Minister to Women (1995- 1998)

Associate Minister (1994-1995)

Emmanuel Baptist Church (Brooklyn, NY)

Church Consultant (2009-2011)

**Denominational Involvement**

New Jersey Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Board of Examiners (2009-2010)

First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bible Study Instructor, Annual Ministers' Retreat (1995-2003)

### **Field Education Site Supervisor**

Princeton Theological Seminary (1998- 2012)

New Brunswick Theological Seminary (1998- 2012)

Drew Theological Seminary (1998- 2012)

Union Theological Seminary (1998- 2012)

### **Preaching Distinctions**

Conference Preacher, Festival of Homiletics, Virtual (2020)

Conference Preacher, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Arlington, VA (2020)

Conference Preacher, Festival of Homiletics, San Antonio, TX (2017)

25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Preacher, Yale University, New Haven, CT (2017)

Chapel Preacher, Duke University, Durham, NC (2016)

Preacher-in-Residence, Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ (2016)

Conference Preacher, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Chicago, IL (2012)

George A. Crawley Women in Ministry Preacher, Hampton University Ministers' Conference, Hampton, VA (2011)

Conference Preacher, National Bible Conference, California State Baptist Convention, Fairfield, CA (2011)

Distinguished Preacher, Distinguished Preacher Series, Riverside Church, NY, NY (2010)

Chapel Preacher at Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Richmond, VA (2008)

Chapel Preacher at Drew School of Theology, Madison, NJ (2007)

### **Advisory Boards**

Womanist Readings in Scripture Publications Series, Fortress/Lexington Academic Press (2018-present)

*The African American Lectionary* (2012-2013)

*The African American Pulpit* (2001- 2004)

### **TEACHING AREAS**

Introduction to the New Testament

Introduction to Biblical Exegesis

Gospel of Mark

Pauline Epistles  
Womanist/Feminist Biblical Interpretation  
Introduction to Preaching  
Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

## **LANGUAGES**

### **Ancient**

Greek (Koine)  
Biblical Hebrew  
Aramaic

### **Modern**

Spanish  
French  
German

## **ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS**

Society of Biblical Literature  
American Academy of Religion

## **REFERENCES**

### **Brian K. Blount**

President, Professor of New Testament in the Walter W. Moore & Charles E.S. Kraemer  
Presidential Chairs and the former Richard J. Dearborn Professor of New Testament  
Interpretation at Princeton Theological Seminary.  
Union Presbyterian Seminary  
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### **Beverly Roberts Gaventa**

Distinguished Professor of New Testament  
Baylor University  
and Helen H. P. Manson Professor of New Testament Interpretation *Emerita*  
Princeton Theological Seminar  
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St. Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA.

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