

November 12, 2020

Office of Black Ministries

The Black Minister's Retreat for 2021 has been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID – 19 pandemic. The next Black Minister's Retreat dates are February 28 – March 3, 2022, at the Embassy Suites Airport, Nashville, Tennessee.

We have compiled a mailing list of seven-hundred (700) African American Churches/Clergy. The mailing list was used to send a letter and brochure announcing the Certificate for African American Clergy. My office has had only twenty – three (23) returned to date.

African American Clergy Leadership Development Director's Report

I am delighted to report that the Certificate for African American Ministry (CAAM) has been launched at Lexington Theological Seminary. A letter announcing the start of the program and the brochure we are using for marketing purposes are attached. In preparation to launch CAAM I spent time doing the following:

- Preparing the 12 courses in consultation with Dean Loida Martell of Lexington Theological Seminary
- Building an African American Faculty for the program
- Recruiting students for the inaugural cohort
- Assisted in the admission process of each student
- Communicating with Regional Ministers concerning accepting CAAM for the apprentice track for ordination

We have fifteen (15) students in our inaugural cohort. The first class was on Evangelism and Missions was October 17&24, 2020, taught by me. The classes are taught on consecutive Saturday from 12:30 – 5:30pm.



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Minister Eva Hughes (540) 342-0333
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July 28, 2020

Dear Colleagues in Ministry:

Yes, dreams do come true! We have listened during the Black Ministers retreat, hallway conversations at National Convocation and General Assembly. You dream of an educational program tailored for persons who realized that a Master of Divinity Degree just might be out of reach. We watched as you stood in affirmation as Dr. Stephanie Crowder opened fresh revelation in the New Testament at our retreat in Alexandria, Virginia. We watched and listened in Nashville, Tennessee, as you dreamed alongside Dr. Yolanda Norton as she helped you gain a better understanding of the Hebrew Bible. We dreamed as you dreamed, and we now announce that dreams do come true.

The Office of African American Clergy Leadership Development, in partnership with Lexington Theological Seminary, invites you to be part of the inaugural cohort for the Certificate of African American Ministry (CAAM) program this fall. We have assembled a stellar faculty of African American scholars and pastors who are sensitive to the needs of African American clergy. The courses within the Certificate of African American Ministry Program are organized around the 16 areas of ministerial practice of The General Commission on the Order of Ministry. The program is part of the Institute of Bi-vocational Ministry at LTS and its *Thriving in Ministry* Project.

The enclosed brochure provides an outline of the requirements for the program and how to begin the application process. We are launching the Certificate program this fall and we invite you to be a student in the inaugural class as we declare that dreams do come true.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. William L. Lee
Director
Office of African American Leadership Development



Certificate in African American Ministry

The Certificate in African American Ministry (CAAM) provides theological, biblical, spiritual, and leadership training for women and men as pastoral leaders with attention to the twenty-first century African American congregational context. It supports those enrolled in the program to pursue excellence in core areas of ministerial practice. The program is a partnership of Lexington Theological Seminary, The Office of African American Clergy Leadership Development, and the National Convocation. It is funded in part by the *Thriving in Ministry* Project at LTS with a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

To accommodate busy schedules, students attend synchronous courses online (via Zoom) as well as four-day, in-person intensive courses* at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY, in the summer (these in-person gatherings are dependent upon changing circumstances pertaining to the COVID 19 pandemic). Upon successful completion of all 12 courses, students earn the Certificate in African American Ministry or they may apply them as continuing education (CEU) credits.

Admission and Program Costs

The application for new students includes a nonrefundable \$25 application fee.

Additional costs are as follows:

online classes – \$75/course;

In-person courses – \$200/session
(includes lunch).

To find the link to apply go to:

<https://www.lextheo.edu/certificate-in-african-american-ministry/>

Upcoming Courses in 2020-2021

October 16, 2020 / on Zoom 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
(Eastern Time) / **Welcome & Orientation**

October 17 & 24, 2020 / each session held on
Zoom 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) /
LM 100 - Evangelism & Missions

December 12 & 19, 2020 / each session held on
Zoom 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) /
IS 100 - Old Testament

February 13 & 20, 2021 / each session held on Zoom 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) /
IS 110 - New Testament

April 17 & 24, 2021 / each session held on Zoom 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (Eastern Time) /
IP 100 - History of Christianity & History & Polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

June 7-11, 2021 / Summer Intensive on Lexington campus*

Mornings: **LW 100 - Preaching**

Afternoons: **IF 100 - We Are One: Disciples Theology**

Courses in the Certificate Program

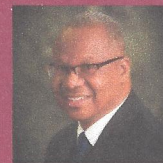
The curriculum of the CAAM program addresses sixteen areas of ministerial practice, including: biblical knowledge, church administration and planning, communication, cross cultural and anti-racism experience, ecumenism, teaching and leader development, ethics, evangelism, mission of the Church in the world, pastoral care, preaching, spiritual development, stewardship, theology, and worship.

Over the course of enrollment, students in the Certificate program take the following courses:

- IS 100 Old Testament
- IS 110 New Testament
- IB 100 Christian Social Ethics
- IB 110 Diversity in a Globalized World
- IF 100 We are One: Disciples Theology
- IP 100 History of Christianity & History
& Polity of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
- LC 100 Pastoral Care and Spiritual Growth
- LF 100 Principles of Christian Education
- LM 100 Evangelism and Missions
- LM 110 Administration & Stewardship
- LW 100 Preaching
- LW 110 Worship

Leadership

Rev. Dr. William Lee
Office of African American
Clergy Leadership Development
Director



Rev. Dr. Charisse L. Gillett
President
Lexington Theological Seminary
Executive Director,
Lilly Projects at LTS



Rev. Dr. Loida Martell
Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Dean
Lexington Theological Seminary



Rev. Dr. Kristen P. Bentley
Thriving in Ministry
Project Director
Lexington Theological Seminary

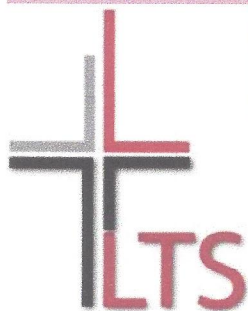


Thriving in Ministry

The mission of Lexington Theological Seminary is to prepare faithful leaders for the church of Jesus Christ and thus to strengthen the church's participation in God's mission for the world.

Lexington Theological Seminary seeks to be a servant of the church by preparing men and women for ministry in congregations through innovative instruction, a flexible curriculum, congregational experience and compassionate engagement with the needs of society. The Seminary offers an online program that is competency-based, congregation-centered and reflects its commitment to prepare people for leadership in congregational ministry.

As an integral part of the church, Lexington Theological Seminary serves the church as a theological resource and as a center of continuing education for clergy and lay leaders.



Lexington Theological Seminary
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