

ALTHEA SPENCER MILLER

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

Drew University, The Theological School
36 Madison Ave.
Madison, NJ 07940
Tel. #: 973-408-3281
Email: aspencer@drew.edu

EDUCATION

January 2008	Ph.D. Claremont Graduate University
1990	Master of Theology, Candler School of Theology Atlanta, GA.
1981	B.A. Theology University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.
1981	Diploma in Ministerial Studies

AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND COURSES

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Ancient Languages Aramaic, Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin
Modern Languages French, German, Spanish.

COURSES OFFERED

2008 to Present

DOCTORAL COURSES

- Africana Studies and Religion,
- Biblical Themes in Martin Luther King and Howard Thurman
- Greek Translation
- Psychological and Biblical Metaphors for Psychological and Congregational Health (Co-teach with Dr. Virginia Samuel).
- Remembering Jesus: From the Cross, To the Cross
- Topics in Biblical Studies: Matthew
- Women, Religion, and Society

MASTERS COURSES:

- Acts of the Apostles to The Ends of the Earth
- African-American Visionaries and the Bible
- Bible and Holocaust (Co-taught with Dr. Dana Nolan Fewell)

- Bible and Its Interpreters (Co-taught with Dr. Gary Simpson and Prof. Hyemin Na)
- Contextual Biblical Interpretation
- Exegesis: Trends in Interpreting Paul
- Many Acts of the Apostles: Canonical and Apocryphal Acts
- Myth and Society in the Acts of the Apostles
- New Testament Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew,
- New Testament Through Non-Western Eyes: Africana Biblical Hermeneutics
- Synoptic Gospels: Matthew in Transition
- Trends in Interpreting Paul
- Warriors, Wives, and Wenches: Women in Greek and Roman Antiquity

AWARDS & GRANTS

2019	Project Director Wabash Peer Group Mentoring Cluster Grant
April 2019	Recipient Drew Faculty Leadership Award for Civic Leadership
2017 – 2018	Participant in Wabash Peer Group Mentoring Cluster Grant
2010 and 2012	Center for Christianities in Global Contexts Faculty Grant
2010	Wabash Summer Research Grant
2009	Wabash Grant for Pre-Tenure Workshop for Faculty of African Descent
1995	Scholarship, Board of Global Ministries United Methodist Church
1994 – 1995	Humanities Fellow, Claremont Graduate University
1991 – 1995	PEO International Peace Scholarship
1990 – 1992	Tuition Grant, Claremont Graduate University
1989 – 1990	Tuition Scholarship, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Serving as first reader on Doctoral Dissertations and DMIN Projects and Master Theses Committees

Serving as reader on STM Extended Papers

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2008 Fall to Present	Assistant Professor of New Testament, Drew University, The Theological School/Graduate Division of Religion
2008 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, California State University, Northridge:
2007 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College:
2006 Fall	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College:

2006 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, Pomona College. Visiting Lecturer, Whittier College.
2005 Fall	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College.
2004 – 2005	Visiting Lecturer, Pomona College.
2001 – 2003	Adjunct Faculty, Scripps College.
1996 Spring	Part-time Lecturer, United Theological College of the West Indies.
1995 Spring	Adjunct Faculty, San Francisco Theological Seminary.
1994 Fall	Adjunct Faculty, School of Theology at Claremont.

PUBLICATIONS

- “From White Man’s Magic to Black Folks’ Wisdom,” in Kenneth N. Ngwa et al. eds. *Life Under the Baobab Tree: Africana Studies and Religion in a Transitional Age*, New York: Fordham University Press; 2023
- “Emancipation: Wheel and Come Again” in Paul Walfall 2020.
- “Looking Forward from the Horizon: A Response in Africana Sisterhood and Solidarity.” in Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace, eds. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse* Atlanta, Georgia: SBL Press, 2016.
- "Creolizing Hermeneutics: A Caribbean Invitation". in *Islands, Islanders, and the Bible: Ruminations*, Jione Havea, Margaret Aymer and Steed Vernyl Davidson, eds. Atlanta, Georgia: SBL Press, 2015.
- Feminist Hermeneutics: New Testament." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, Vol. F (Publication Pending by Walter de Gruyter GmbH Berlin, 2014).
- "Rethinking Orality for Biblical Studies." in Roland Boer, ed. *Postcolonialism and the Hebrew Bible*. (Atlanta, Georgia: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013) 35-68.
- Social Justice Matters: Thoughts on Women and Development – A Postword” in Judith Soares, *Social Justice Matters: Thoughts on Women and Development*
- “Review of *Discourse: Learning and Teaching in Philosophical and Religious Studies*, Volume 7, No. 2, Spring 2008. ISSN: 1741-4164”. Publication pending in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 2013
- “Women and Christianity in the Caribbean: Living Past the Colonial Legacy,” in Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan & Karen Jo Torjesen, eds. (Praeger, Santa Barbara, California; 2009) pp. 273-303.
- “Chiefs: Female,” in Bonnie Smith, Gen. Ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, (Oxford University Press, New York; 2008) 335 – 336.

- O'Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, Co-Editors, *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005)
- "Lucy Bailey Meets the Feminists." in O'Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, eds. *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005) 209-238.
- Spencer-Miller, Althea. "Feminist Pedagogies: Implications of a Liberative Praxis." in O'Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, eds. *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005) 17-40.
- "Ecumenism, Gender and Ethics: A Biblical Vision," in Tetsunao Yamamori, Bryant L. Myers and Kenneth Luscombe, eds. *Serving with the Urban Poor*, (MARC: Monrovia: California, 1998) 167-176.

Other Papers

- "Peer Review of 'Storying as Teaching Practice: Exploring Caribbean Creole Narrative Strategies in Teaching Religious Stories: 'Yuh Too Story' Story as Method and Practice,'" for *Teaching Theology and Religion*, a publication of Wabash Center, Crawfordsville, IN, 2013.

IN PROCESS

- "Josephus' Jesus: A Jacket" – Essay on the "Testimonium Flavium" using a Jamaican trope.
- Book Project: "Reading with Island Eyes, Speaking in Island Tongues" This is a book length project that explores the relationship between orality and interpretation, and the exegetical potential of an oral epistemology.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

2021 to present	Member Nominations Committee of Society of Biblical Literature
2016 to present	African Association for the Study of Religions Liaison to the Society of Biblical Literature
2016 to 2021	Member SBL Program Unit, Islands, Islanders, and the Scriptures.
2010 to 2016	Co-Chair, SBL Program Unit, "Islanders, Islands and the Scriptures.
2007 to present	Organizing Committee Member and Member the African Association for the Study of Religions
Fall 2006	Faculty Learning Community of the Claremont Colleges – Student Advising.
2004 to present	Society for Biblical Literature
2003 – 2004	Faculty Learning Community of the Claremont Colleges

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- SBL: Global Virtual Meeting “Response to Dr. Musa Dube 2023 SBL Presidential Address” 2024
- SBL “An Islander Point of View on Embodiment and Performance: Quotidian Organicity: 2023
- SBL “Poetics, Vignettes and Biblical Interpretation: Toward an Onto-Oral Exegesis” 2023.
SBL “Review of ‘Performing Early Christian Literature: Audience, Experience and Interpretation of the Gospels’ by Dr. Kelly Iverson. 2023
- “The New Testament and LGBTQIA Humanity” 2022
- “Recovering Ethnicity in Early Christianity: Ancient Africa” 2022
- SBL “Creoleness, Orality and the Scriptures: Towards a Theory of Orality Based Holistic Exegesis” 2020
- SBL “The Other in Biblical Studies: Critical Reflections on Edward Said’s *Orientalism* Forty Years Later”, 2019
- SBL “Alternative Cultural Epistemologies” Keynote presentation to the Performance Criticism Workshop November 2018
- SBL “The City that Never Changes: On Immutability and Migration in Hebrews” November 2018
- Panelist SBL Panelist for Review *The Material Life of Roman Slaves* by Sandra Joshel and Lauren Hackworth Petersen, co-authors. 2018
- “Black Folks Magic: Revivalist Responses to Colonial Scripturalization” presented at the Drew Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium March 2017
- “Of Cruise Ships and Paul’s Journeys” presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.
- Respondent, Postcolonial Studies and Biblical Studies: African Association for the Study of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.
- Panelist SBL Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Seminar. Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, GA, 2015.
- “Paul in the City: Theoretical Formulations” presented October 2014 at New York Theological Seminary Conference on “The City in the Bible”
- “Interpreting Orality Interpreting the New Testament” presented as the 2012 Kathleen O’Brien Wicker Lecture at Scripps College, February, 2012.
- “Response to Papers on Minoritization in the USA” at the Society of Biblical Literature 2011.
- “Reggae Transforming Exegesis” Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, November, 2010.
- “Unholy Zygotes: Western Slavery, The Shoah, and the Bible,” Lecture given at Pomona College, April, 2010.
- “Speaking in Island Tongues” Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in New Orleans, November, 2009.

- Review of *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*, Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in New Orleans, November, 2009
- "Caribbean Biblical Hermeneutics" Caribbean Ministers Association Annual Retreat/Meeting, July, 2009.
- "Feminist Biblical Studies: Interrogating Empires in Diverse Contexts" presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, November, 2008.
- "Stereotyping Evangelicals" "Mirrors & Windows: Facing Religious Stereotypes and Prejudice: The Second Annual Religions in Conversation Conference" April 13, 2008.
- "Religion: Women's Curse or Women's Blessing?" International Women's Day Lecture: The Claremont Colleges, March 6, 2008.
- "Introduction to the New Testament," presented at Conference of Religions in Conversation: Sacred Texts held at Claremont Graduate University, April 15, 2007.
- "Lucy Bailey Meets the Feminists," presented at conference on the Global Future of Feminist New Testament Scholarship, Scripps College, Spring 2003.
- "The Gods Speak and Humans Hear: Communications Between Spirit-kind and Human-kind in *Acts of the Apostles* and Homer's *Iliad*," presented at conference on "Luke and Mimesis: Imitations of Classical Literature in Luke-Acts." Claremont Graduate University, March, 2002.
- "From Holy Writ to Holy Grit: Biblical Hermeneutics and Christian Social Action," presented at Claremont Graduate University, Minority Mentor Program Conference on "Social Justice: From Reflection to Action," Spring 2001.
- "When the Stones Cry Out," Opening Convocation for Claremont School of Theology, 2000.
- "Women in Caribbean Theological Education, "Consultation on Theological Education in the Caribbean," United Theological College of the West Indies, Fall 1996.
- "Caribbean Hermeneutics from a Feminist Perspective," Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 1995.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

2018 to present	External Reviewer for <i>Horizons</i>
2017 to present	External Reviewer for <i>Rethinking Mission, U.K.</i>
2017 to present	External Reviewer for <i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i> .
2014-2016	Editorial Board, <i>Sapientia Logos</i> .
2009-2010	Participant in Wabash Workshop for Pre-Tenure African American Faculty in Theology and Religious Studies.
Spring 2009	Association of Theological Schools Workshop for Junior Faculty
Summer 2008	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Workshop on Christianity and the Holocaust.

March, 2008	Participant in workshop on “Teaching Gender and Islam: A Workshop for College and University Instruction” at Whittier College, CA.
Fall 2006	Claremont Colleges Faculty Learning Community – Advising and Mentoring
Fall 2003 and 2004	Claremont Colleges Faculty Learning Community - Feminist Pedagogy
Spring 2003	Co-convener with Kathleen Wicker: Conference on the Global Future of Feminist New Testament Scholarship – Scripps College.
Fall 2000	“When The Stones Cry” Convocation 2000, Claremont School of Theology
Summer 1999	“The Future of Ecumenism in the Caribbean.” 1999 Paper prepared for consultation with Christian Aid United Kingdom.
1998-1999	Curriculum writer Caribbean Examination’s Council: Religious Education.
1979-1981	Curriculum writer Caribbean Conference of Churches “Fashion Me A People” Church School Curriculum.
1973-1975	Adult Literacy Program, Teacher – Jamaica.

NON-ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

November 2018	Developed and facilitated workshop on “Global Cross Cultural Communication”
November 2017	“Decentralizing Hermeneutics: <i>Misseo Dei</i> And Other Impertinent Latin Phrases” Paper presented at the United Methodist Church Colloquium on <i>Misseo Dei</i> .
Oct. – Nov. 2017	“The Bible, Human Sexuality, and the Church” Three session Bible Study series presented at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Neptune City, NJ
August 2011	Bible Study Leader at Reconciling Ministries Network/Methodists for Social Action Joint Annual Conference.
April 2010	Paper presented at “World Without Empire:” Peace for Life Conference, Union Theological Seminary, April 2010.
1998 – 1999	Theological Consultant to the United Church of Canada General Executive Committee
April 1996	World Council of Churches Faith and Order Committee Consultation on “ <i>Episkopé</i> and Episcopacy and the Quest for Visible Unity”
Spring 1998 1994	Consultation on Caribbean Theology: Bible Study Leader United Methodist Church Clergy Women’s Consultation - Chicago

1988	Liaison Coordinator Conference of African-American United Methodist Clergy Women Caucus Meeting, Providence Island, Bahamas.
1985	Co-coordinator and Presenter First Ecumenical Conference of Caribbean Clergy Women, Antigua
1984	Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England
1982	United Methodist Clergy Women's Consultation in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Representing the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Drew

2022-2023	Committee on Faculty
2022 to Present	Chair, Intercultural Committee
2021 to Present	Partnership for Religious Education in Prisons Steering Committee
2021-2023	Convener Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry Program
2020- Present	PhD Steering Committee
2019-2020	Committee on Faculty
2019 to Present	Curriculum Steering Committee
2017-2021	Convener Master of Arts in Religion Program
2016-2017	Committee on Faculty
Spr. 2012 to Present	Contextual Education and Community Life Constellation
Spr. 2011	Training for PREP Program
Spr. 2010 to Present	Faculty Advisor, Spectrum
Fall 2009 to Present	University Civic Engagement Committee
Other	Service on Chapel Committee, Dean's Council, DMIN Committee, Faculty adviser to Women in Ministry and African Students Association Caucuses, Admission Committee for prospective PhD and MDIV students

Church

Ongoing	Preaching and Panel Presentations by invitation at United Methodist Congregations and other denominations.
2019	Member New York Annual Conference Queer Clergy Caucus
April 2019	The Arts of Biblical Interpretation – Four Week Course presented at First Congregational Church, Montclair NJ
2016 to Present	Steering Committee Member United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus
Oct. – Nov. 2017	“Reading Biblical Texts with Gay Persons in Mind” Three Week Course presented at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Neptune NJ
Sept. 2013 to Present	Steering Committee Methodists in New Directions
June 2012	Presenter, “Come to the River Conference”
Spr. 2012 to Present	Member Methodists in New Direction, organization of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church

Mar. 2012	“Jesus and the Poor” One day workshop conducted for the Capital District of the North Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church
Feb. 2012	Bishop Sprague Lectures at North Broadway United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH.
Aug. 2011	Bible Study Leader for three days at “Sing a New Song,” Conference sponsored by Methodist Fellowship for Social Action and the Reconciling Ministries Network of the United Methodist Church.
Oct. 2010	“Known by Your Fruit,” Sermon, Stanley UCC for Coming Out Sunday
Feb. 2010	Visiting Teacher at Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, NY (Led three Church School Sessions on the New Perspective on Paul.)
July 2009	“Walk to the Finish” Sermon preached at First UMC, Jamaica Plains, NY
May 2009	Women’s Day Sermon at Calvary UMC, Bronx, NY
Apr. 2009	Women’s Day Sermon at Bethel AME Church, Morristown, NJ
Feb. 2009	Panelist at Bethel AME Church, Morristown, NJ; Panel on Social Issues in the Black Community, Bethel AME Men’s Weekend
Dec. 2008	Sermon at St. John’s UMC, Valley Stream, NY

General Community

Aug. 2008 to present	Member League of Women Voters
2007	Volunteer, Chino Institute for Women (Women’s Prison)
1999	Police Commission, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Government of Jamaica
1998 – 1999	International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin: Vice Chairperson
1997	Member, Kingston and St. Andrew Inter-Preparatory School Athletic Competition Organizing Committee
1991 – 1992	Student Representative to the Religion Executive Committee, Claremont Graduate University
1987 – 1989	Board of Trustees National Children’s Home
1987 – 1988	Jamaica Religious Education Teachers Association: Public Relations Officer
1985 – 1989	Board of Friends of the Women’s Centre

PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE

1997–1999	Senior Programme Officer, Caribbean Conference of Churches, Kingston, Jamaica.
1995-1999	Superintendent Minister Mt. Fletcher Circuit, Kingston, Jamaica. Responsibilities included:

Senior Administrator, Preacher, Teacher, Pastor, Mt. Fletcher, Content Gap, Hall's Delight and Dallas Methodist Churches
 Chair of School Boards: Halls Delight Secondary, Mt. Fletcher Primary
 Chaplain to the University of the West Indies.
 Responsibilities included: Preaching, Administration, Counselling and mentoring ministerial students.

- 1986 – 1989 Chaplain Excelsior Education Centre working in Community College, High School, Primary (Elementary) School.
 Responsibilities included:
 Representative of the Methodist Church in Jamaica to the Boards of Governors, Ceremonies Coordinator, Lecturer, Senior Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Liaison between Church and Schools.
- 1981 – 1985 Associate Minister Coke Circuit: Coke, Arnold Rd., Ebenezer and Trinity Methodist Churches. Responsibilities included: Administration Preaching, Teaching, Pastoring; Chair of School Board: Arnold Road Methodist Basic School;
 Chaplain to Mico Teachers College
- 1975-1977 National Youth Service Worker, Churches' Advisory Bureau, Kingston, Jamaica. Responsibilities included:
Coordinating the development of an Educational Programme for Pregnant Teenagers, Recruiting Students and Staff, Social Work, Teaching, Developing Curriculum.

SIGNIFICANT TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

- Summer 2010 Research travel to Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, and Antigua to conduct autoethnographic data gathering on oral cultures.
- 1998 – 1999 Made repeat visits to Canada as a theological consultant with the Central Executive Committee of the United church of Canada
- 1998 – 1999 Vice Chair of the International Executive Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
- 1997 – 1999 Member of the International Executive Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
 As a member of the Executive Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin I traveled to Finland and Thailand. In Finland I visited small communities as a promotional envoy of the committee. In Thailand I had significant contact with local communities as the Committee toured community development projects it had funded.
- 1997 – 1999 Made repeat visits for supervisory and conference purposes throughout the Caribbean as an officer of the Caribbean

Conference of Churches. Countries visited include Antigua, Barbados, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago.

- 1996 Development Consultation with World Vision International in the Philippines: Involved visitation with community development programs that were funded by World Vision.
- 1980 Three-month summer pastoral assignment working in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.