

CURRICULUM VITAE
OF
Julia M. Speller, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Associate Professor, American Religious History & Culture

Chicago Theological Seminary
5757 S. University Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

(773) 322-0263 Office
(773) 468-8228 Home
jspeller@ctschicago.edu

EDUCATION

- 1996 Doctor of Philosophy, The University of Chicago, Divinity School
Chicago, IL, History of Christianity
Dissertation: *Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian: One
Congregation's Quest for Meaning and Belonging*
- 1991 Master of Arts in Divinity, The University of Chicago, Divinity School
Chicago, IL
- 1985 Master of Religious Education, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary,
Evanston, IL
- 1982 Bachelor of Science, Chicago State University, Chicago, IL
Major: Business Administration

RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Fields of Specialization: American Religious History, History of the Christianity,
History of the African American Church, American Civil Religion, Congregational
Studies, Religious Education, Contextual Education

Main Research Interests: The study of religious experience and practice in 20th Century
America; religious diversity/pluralism/multiculturalism in American society; religious
identity, formation and vocation in theological education; Africentricity in black
American churches; lay leadership in local congregations.

PUBLICATIONS

June 2006. *The Practice of Caring Well*, Journal of Supervision and Training in
Ministry, Volume 26.

October 2005. Walkin' the Talk: Keepin' the Faith in Africentric Congregations,
Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, Ohio.

March, 2003. *Increasing Diversity in Theological School: A Reflection*, Theological Education, Vol. 38, No. 2, 2002

November 2001. *Its All Good: Reflections on a Year in CCT*, The Chicago Theological Seminary Register, Vol. 91, No. 1.

May 2001. *Mary Fitzbutler Waring*, Historical Encyclopedia of Chicago Women, 1790-1990, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2001

April 1999. *Marginality within the Margins*, The Chicago Theological Seminary Register, Vol. 89, No. 2.

September 1997. *History of Black Congregational Christian Churches of the South: Two Sources in Parallel Streams*, Prism: A Theological Forum for the United Church of Christ, Fall.

December 1997. Lessons from the Amistad: A Challenge and Call to Action for the United Church of Christ in the New Century, Community Renewal Society, Chicago, IL

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

July 2006 to present **Associate Professor, American Religious History and Culture, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**

July 1999- 2006 **Assistant Professor of Church History, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**

Courses taught History of Christian Thought
Religion in America
African American Religious History
American Civil Religion
Religious Education in a Multicultural Context
Studying Congregations
Women and Religion in the 20th Century
Africentric Christian Education

March/April 2001 &
March/April 2002 **Online Instructor, Ecumenical Leadership Institute, Vesper Society, San Francisco, CA**
Vocation/Call

March 1998 to June 1998 **Adjunct Professor, Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL**
United Church of Christ/Unitarian Universalist
Church History

March 1997 to June 1997	Adjunct Professor, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL American Civil Religion
March 1996 to June 1996	Adjunct Professor, Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL Religious Education from an African American Perspective
February 1997 to June 1998	Adjunct Instructor, Elmhurst College Elmhurst, IL Introduction to Religious Education

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

January 2008 to present	Director, D. Min. Program, Director, M. Div Program and Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
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PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

Race in America, 1st Congregational Church of Western Springs, Western Springs, IL 2008.

Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian: The Meaning and the Message, The Hinsdale Union Church, Hinsdale, IL 2008.

Working Toward Unity in the Urban Community, The Journey Group, African American Ministers Alliance, Kalamazoo MI 2007

Congregational Analysis: Understanding Congregational Context, Summer Urban Ministry Institute on Congregational Leadership Development, Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education, Chicago, IL, 2007

The Black Church and Social Justice, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Rabbinic Fellows Program, Chicago, IL, 2006

In Search of the Beloved Community: Real or Ideal? Imani Temple Christian Fellowship, Pomona, CA 2006

Congregational Analysis: Understanding Congregational Context, Summer Urban Ministry Institute on Congregational Leadership Development, Seminary Consortium on Urban Pastoral Education, Chicago, IL, 2006

Light for the Journey, Senior Banquet, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL, 2005

The Black Church – Its History and Theology, National Conference for Community and Justice, Chicago, IL 2005

Relevant Pedagogy and the Dilemma of Diversity, Trinity Christian College, Palos, Heights, IL, 2004

Walk the Talk and Keep the Faith: A Mandate to Racial/Ethnic Ministries for the 21st Century, Council on Racial Ethnic Ministries Convocation, United Black Christians Bi-annual Conference, 2004

Reflections on the Amistad – Panel Discussion, A Different Drummer, WBBM Channel 2, Chicago, IL, 2003

Walkin' the Talk, Keepin' the Faith: Theology and Praxis in Seminary Education, Calista Olds Lectureship in Biblical Studies, 2003

Christianity in America, The Newberry Library Religious Studies Series, 2003

The Black Church and African Spirituality: Remember, Reclaim, Renew McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL, 2002

Church Honors God While Celebrating Culture, An Interview with the Inland Valley Voice, LA Times, November 2002.

Developing Cultural Competencies for Effective Ministry, Council for Health and Human Service Ministries, Chicago IL, 2000

Cultural Diversity and the Christian Community, Midwest Association of Congregational Christian Churches, Plainfield, IL, 2000

The Church as the Preserver of History and the Protector of Heritage, Church Archival Training Event, Chicago, IL 2000

The Amistad Revolt: Historical Lessons and Theological Implications, Lakeland College Mission House Lecture, Sheboygan WI, 1999

The Role of the Church in African American Culture, Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, IL, 1999

SERVICE TO CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Ad Hoc Committee on Race, Chair, 2008

Convocation Address, Chicago Theological Seminary, *Songs of Faith in Exile*, 2007

Steering Committee, *Center for the Study of Black Faith and Life*, 2007

Workshop on American Civil Religion, Ministerial Institute, 2006

Chair, Commencement Committee, 2006.

Convocation Address, Chicago Theological Seminary, *Walking the Talk, Keeping the Faith: Theology and Praxis in Seminary Education*, 2003

Charge to Graduating Class, Commencement 2004

Faculty Sponsor, Charles Shelby Rooks Society 2004- Present

Coordinator of 150th Anniversary Quilt Project, 2004-2005

It's Not Your Grandmother's Quilt, Conversations about the CTS 150th Anniversary Quilt: GS 2005, 1st Congregational Church of Western Springs, 2005

Visiting Committee, *Theology and Praxis in Seminary Education*, 2003

Graham Taylor Awards Banquet, *Building Bridges, Linking Communities*, Chicago, IL 2002

United Church of Christ and Chicago Theological Seminary: Pluralism and Diversity, Board Faculty Retreat, Chicago, IL 2001

Seminary Representative, CUE Meeting, Eden Theological Seminary, 1999

Graham Taylor Awards Banquet, Chicago, IL, *The Religious Citizen: The Changing Relationship Between Church and State*, 1999

CONSULTATION LEADERSHIP

Faculty Review Committee, Seabury Western Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL 2008

Fund for Theological Education Expanding Horizons Summer Conference, 2003

Faculty Mentor – Ph.D. Fellows, Fund for Theological Education, 2003

Association of Theological Schools Workshop on Diversity, Pittsburgh, PA 2002

Consultation on Youth and Practices, Valparaiso, University, 1999

DENOMINATIONAL INVOLVEMENT (UCC)

LGBTQ Scholarship Committee, 2007-Present

Chicago Metropolitan Association Blue Ribbon Reparations Committee, 2001-2003

Dean's Council for Health and Human Services Ministries, 1998-2001

Denominational Representative -- Theological Committee, Caribbean and North American Area Council of World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 1997-2000

Denominational Representative -- Black Church Ministry Committee, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, New York, NY, 1994-1998

Consultation on Family Ministries, 1997-1998

Consultation on Disciplines of Faith, 1992-1995

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2006	Association of Theological Schools, Research Grant, \$5,000
2006	Judith Sanderson Women in Leadership Award
2005	Women's Division of the Chicago Urban League
2005	Congregational Profile Project, Fund for Theological Education
2003	Wabash Summer Grant, \$7,000
2002	Workshop for African American non-Tenure Faculty, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning
2002	General Research Grant from Louisville Institute, \$5,500
2000	Irma Kingsley Johnson Distinguish Service Award, Chicago Friends of the <i>Amistad</i> Research Center
1999	Sub-grant from Lilly to Valparaiso University, <i>Walkin' the Talk, A Guide to Practical Spirituality for Black Congregations</i> , \$ 10,000
1999	Kenneth B. Smith Professor of Public Ministry, Chicago Theological Seminary

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Religion
Society for the Study of Black Religion
United Black Christians
American Society of Church History

8/09