



CASTAÑEDA JENNINGS

Lecture & Award



DR. TERESA L. SMALLWOOD

*James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Associate Professor of Public Theology
United Lutheran Seminary*

**(TRANS)FORMATIONAL PUBLIC
THEOLOGY IN THE AGE OF WHITE
CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM**

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 6:30pm

Zoom

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Teresa L. Smallwood is the James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Associate Professor of Public Theology at United Lutheran Seminary. Prior to her appointment in 2021, she served as Postdoctoral Fellow and Associate Director of the Public Theology and Racial Justice Col-

laborative at Vanderbilt Divinity School since 2017. She has taught at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, Religious Freedom Center in Washington, D.C., Chicago Theological Seminary and Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR. She began her legal career with Legal Services of the Southern Piedmont in Charlotte, NC, where she also worked as a staff attorney for the Children's Law Center. In 1989, she served as an Assistant District Attorney until she commenced her private practice that spanned more than two decades.

Dr. Smallwood was born in Windsor, NC and earned her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a major in Speech Communications and Afro-American Studies; M.Div. from Howard University; J.D. from North Carolina Central University; and Ph.D. in Theology, Ethics, and Human Sciences from Chicago Theological Seminary.

ABOUT THE AWARDEES



Elizabeth "Ez" Pence is a senior Masters of Divinity student at Chicago Theological Seminary, ordained at Hyde Park Union Church (ABCUSA), and one of the many pastors at Gilead Church Chicago. She was raised in the charismatic Free Methodist Church but found

a home in churches that take the radical Gospel back to its roots. They graduated from Spring Arbor University with a degree in Drama for Social Change, where she learned the pastoral and artistic practice of storytelling as well as organized queer and trans students on campus. Their seminary work currently lies at the intersection of queer mental health, harm reduction, storytelling, ritual, and eschatology. Elizabeth is also an interdisciplinary artist with wide interests and talents in film, poetry, theatre, and music.



Randall Tyson came to CTS after earning a Bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration degree at University of Maryland, College Park. Randy was raised in the Lutheran tradition and went through Stephen Ministry training at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Prior to entering the M.A. program at CTS, he already had a diverse career in the business world, working in various positions in technical consulting, communications, and digital media among other areas; and he brought to seminary an interest in the roles of digital media in religious communities. Although he has continued to work full-time as a seminary student, he has also been active in our Student Government Association and in the life of the seminary.

PROGRAM

Introduction.....	Dr. W. Scott Haldeman <i>Associate Professor of Worship</i>
Welcome Remarks.....	Dr. Brad R. Braxton <i>President and Professor of Public Theology</i>
Securing the Castañeda Legacy.....	Ms. Haley Hudler <i>Manager of Donor Engagement</i>
Centering Word.....	Ms. Leika Lewis-Cornwell <i>2022 Castañeda-Jennings Scholar</i>
Introduction of Awardees.....	Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder <i>Professor of New Testament and Culture; and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean</i>
Introduction of the Castañeda-Jennings Lecturer....	Dr. Ken Stone <i>Distinguished Service Professor and Professor of Bible, Culture, and Hermeneutics</i>
2023 Castañeda-Jennings Lecture.....	Dr. Teresa Smallwood <i>James Franklin Kelly and Hope Eyster Kelly Associate Professor of Public Theology, United Lutheran Seminary</i>
Q&A with Dr. Smallwood.....	moderated by Dr. Ken Stone
Closing Remarks.....	Dr. Brad R. Braxton

ABOUT THE LECTURE

The Theodore Jennings Legacy

A gifted theologian and educator, the late Professor Emeritus Theodore Jennings taught for more than 30 years at Chicago Theological Seminary. He was an inspiring and passionate teacher who gave witness to God's justice and mercy for generations of students. Professor Jennings's theology was one of radical hospitality and welcoming of others, especially those at society's margins. Professor Jennings was deeply concerned about international students' welfare who were often isolated and vulnerable while living outside their home countries. For decades, he visited and lectured in many countries around the world, helping form and sustain local movements against homophobia.

About the Scholarship Fund

The Castañeda-Jennings Lecture and Award were established in 1994 by Professor Jennings and his wife, CTS alumna Rev. Dr. Ronna Case, in loving memory of their adopted son, Gilberto Castañeda. Gilberto first met Case in California, where she worked to develop mission congregations among undocumented workers from Mexico. Gilberto "found the love of God so compelling that he not only became a member but also a leader in the new congregations of young people" that were being established by Rev. Case. In 1994, at the age of 29, he died of complications from AIDS.

Each year, the Castañeda-Jennings Award is given to students who embody the vision and values of the LGBTQ+ religious studies program. To continue Professor Jennings's legacy, CTS is committed to growing the Castañeda-Jennings Scholarship and providing scholarship support to LGBTQ+ and ally students into perpetuity.



As an institution that has woven LGBTQ-affirming theological perspectives into our curriculum, programs, and scholarships, CTS is creating a safer world for the LGBTQ+ community. Today, we ask for your support. Join the CTS Campaign for LGBTQ+ Initiatives at bit.ly/lgbtq2023!

[Gifts to the LGBTQ+ Initiatives Campaign](#) support our students pursuing a degree concentration in LGBTQ+ Studies, our faculty teaching and publishing an array of Queer Theology and scholarship, and our Annual Castañeda-Jennings Lecture and Award. CTS continues to evolve and deepen its commitment to shaping the public square, making space for and equipping leaders to create open and affirming spaces that liberate humanity from restrictive gender and sexual norms.

[Give today](#), and join us in transforming our society and faith spaces from places of hostility and alienation to communities of celebration and empowerment.

bit.ly/lgbtq2023



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