

# **TEJAI BEULAH HOWARD**

Assistant Professor of History, Ethics, and Black Church and African Diaspora Studies

Methodist Theological School in Ohio

3081 Columbus Pike

Delaware, Ohio 43015

740-362-3137

[tbeulah@mtso.edu](mailto:tbeulah@mtso.edu)

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

2020- Assistant Professor of History, Ethics, and Black Church and African Diaspora Studies, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

2017-2020 Coordinator of Partnerships and Black Church and African Diaspora Studies Specialization, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

2016-2017 Coordinator of Methodist Theological School in Ohio and National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Partnership, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

2017 Adjunct Instructor, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA.

2015-2020 Adjunct Instructor, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

## **EDUCATION**

2018 Ph.D., with distinction, American Religious History, Drew University, Madison, NJ.

2011 M.T.S., Church History, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

2007 M.A., African and African American Studies, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

2005 B.A., English, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH.

## **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

2019 The Rev. Robert W. Edgar Prize for Social Justice, Drew University

2013 Graduate Student Award, Drew University

2011-2013 Doctoral Fellowship, The Fund for Theological Education

2011-2012 Bishop Prince Taylor Scholarship Award, Drew University

2011 The Charles A. Dice Fellowship, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

2010 Student Enrichment Program Research Grant Recipient, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

2008-2011 Academic Scholarship, Methodist Theological School in Ohio

2005 Gender and Diversity Studies Student Prize, Xavier University

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Journal Articles and Blogs (peer-reviewed)**

“How Pauli Murray Masterminded *Brown v. Board.*” In Black Women and *Brown v. Board of Education* Roundtable. *Black Perspectives Blog*. Projected, Fall 2022.

2021 “To Interpret Scripture Intelligently: The Bible, Civil Rights, and Human Dignity.” *The Other Journal* 33: Reimagination (online publication).

<https://theotherjournal.com/2021/12/16/interpret-scripture-intelligently-civil-rights-human-dignity/>.

2021 “Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Resource Guide.” *Historian Speaks*.

[www.historianspeaks.org](http://www.historianspeaks.org) <https://historianspeaks.org/f/martin-luther-king-jr-resource-guide-tejai-beulah>.

### **Book Chapters**

“‘Our Group of Women’: Bethune, Burroughs, and Brown and the Black Christian Intellectual Tradition.” In *A Seat at the Table: African American Women’s Intellectualism in the Public Square*. Edited by Hettie V. Williams and Melissa Ziobro, Jackson: University of Mississippi Press. Projected, Fall 2023.

“What She Knows for Sure: Oprah Winfrey and the Black Tradition of Spiritual, But Not Religious Writing.” In *A Seat at the Table: African American Women’s Intellectualism in the Public Square*. Edited by Hettie V. Williams and Melissa Ziobro, Jackson: University of Mississippi Press. Projected, Fall 2023.

2021 “When Your Kin Fall into Difficulty.” In *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign*. Edited by Liz Theoharis. Minneapolis Press, Broadleaf Books.

2021 “When Women Testify, Things Change.” In *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign*. Edited by Liz Theoharis. Minneapolis Press, Broadleaf Books.

### **Book Reviews**

Daniel R. Bare, *Black Fundamentalists: Conservative Christianity and Racial Identity in the Segregation Era* and Todne Thomas, *Kincraft: The Making of Black Evangelical Sociality*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. Forthcoming.

2022 Gregory C. Ellison, ed., *Anchored in the Current: Discovering Howard Thurman as Educator, Activist, Guide, and Prophet*. *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 76:2, 191.

## **LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Lectures**

2022 “Cry All You Want: Creating a Safe Space for Those Who Mourn.” Spiritual Guidance Training Institute, Chicago, IL (via Zoom).

2021 “Martin Luther King: More Than a Dreamer,” Explore Institute, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio (via Hopin).

2021 “Howard Thurman, Spirituality, and Social Change.” Spirituality and Social Change Leadership Class, Drew Theological School, Madison, NJ (via Zoom).

2021 “The Human King.” Martin Luther King Day Celebration, Hanover College, Hanover, IN. (via Zoom).

2020 “King and the Poor People’s Campaign.” Reading the Bible with the Poor Cohort. The Kairos Center, New York, NY (via Zoom).

### **Internal Lectures and Presentations**

2022 “Finding Fellowship.” Film Screening and Interview with director Jason Green, MTSO.

2022 FTE Discernment Retreat Faculty Panel, MTSO.

2022 “Howard Thurman, Discernment, and You.” FTE Discernment Retreat, MTSO.

2020 “Black Christian Intellectuals? Reimagining 20<sup>th</sup> Century Black Women’s Work.” Premier Scholarship Lecture, MTSO.

2019 “Historical Peeping Toms: Martin Luther King, Jr.’s FBI File and the Future of His Legacy.” HBCU Minister’s Campus Ministers Conference, MTSO.

2018 “The Personalism and the Person of Martin Luther King, Jr.” Alumni Day Lecture in honor of Dr. Ervin Smith, MTSO.

2017 “Was Not Martin Luther an Extremist?” The Reformation Legacy and the Family of Martin Luther King, Jr.” Response lecture to Dr. Jeff Jaynes, MTSO.

### **Public Presentations**

“John Wesley & C.S. Lewis: Spaces and Places in Early English Christianities.” Lecture and Discussion at East Shore United Methodist Church, Euclid, OH. (Booked for October 2022)

“Howard Thurman and Social Justice.” Lecture and Book Discussion at Zion United Church of Christ, Delaware, OH. (Booked for August 2022)

2022 “If the Spirit Loves Me I Can Just Be Me: The Liberated Spirituality in Womanist Literature.” A Moore Mindful Life: Querencia Retreat, Millersburg, OH (via Zoom).

2022 “King in the Wilderness.” MLK Day Film Discussion for the East Ohio Conference of United Methodist Church (via Zoom).

2022 *We Cry Justice: Reading the Bible with the Poor People’s Campaign* Book Discussion. Drew Theological School. Religion and Society Graduate Meeting (via Zoom).

2022 Drew GDR Colloquy on Professional Development. Panelist (via Zoom).

2021 “Christianity in Context: Church History.” Interview with Rev. Dr. Courtney Bryant for the AMEC Publishing House, YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtCLGxTrwr4>.

2021 “Howard Thurman and Contemplative Resistance.” Workshop at St. James Episcopal Church: The Urban Well, Lancaster, PA (via Zoom).

2021 “Reflecting on The Black Church and the PBS documentary, *This is Our Story, This is Our Song*.” Lecture and Discussion at Thursday Night Young Adult Care Group. New Salem Baptist Church, Columbus, OH (via Zoom).

2021 “Howard Thurman’s Spiritual Vision and Social Change.” Lecture and Discussion at The Spirituality Network, Columbus, OH (via Zoom).

2021 Ohio Mobile Institute, Vanderbilt Divinity School and Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative: “We Can’t Breathe: Racism as a Moral, Spiritual, and Public Health Crisis.” Panelist (via Zoom).

2019 “Howard Thurman’s Footprints of a Dream: How to Fellowship with All Peoples.” Workshop at the Ohio Council of Church’s Centennial Celebration, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH.

2018 “Gender Awareness and Inclusivity.” Lecture given at the Metro-Urban Institute of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Pittsburgh, PA.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Professional Organizations**

2022- Associate Editor of *Black Perspectives Blog*, African American Intellectual History Society

### **Professional Memberships**

2022- African American Intellectual History Society

2022- Spiritual Directors International

2012- American Academy of Religion

### **Theses, Dissertations, and Independent Studies**

2020 D.Min. Thesis Committee Member. Malcolm Himschoot, “Lift Up: The Leadership Process of Pastors of Color in the United Church of Christ,” MTSO.

2020 Individual Study: Nkrumahism Thought/Theory

2019 Second Reader, M.Div. thesis. Jennifer Fowler, “Adding to the World’s Stock of Valuable Souls: Anna Julia Cooper and the Social Gospel Movement,” MTSO.

2019 Independent Study: Black Masculinity in the Black Church

2019 Independent Study: Women’s Religious Experience in the Civil Rights Movement

2018 Independent Study: Christian Ethics Individual Study: Womanist and Feminist Ethics Project

2017 Second Reader, M.Div. thesis. Cecil Thompson, “An Examination of Liberation and Justice in the Theologies of James H. Cone and Reinhold Niebuhr in the age of Black Lives Matter,” MTSO.

**Methodist Theological School in Ohio**

2022- Doctor of Ministry Committee

2022 Established 3+2 partnership for MASJ degree with University of Mount Union

2021 Curriculum Development for Science for Seminaries Grant

2021 Curriculum Development for “Creating Antiracist Institutions” Wabash Grant

2020- ES 500 Coordinator

2020-2022 Admissions and Student Aid Committee

2020-2022 Faculty Secretary

2019 Coordinator Visiting Faculty Program with Faculdade Unidade Vitoria, ES, Brazil

2018-2022 Anti-Racism Task Force, Co-Chair

2018 Established 3+3 partnership for M.Div. program with Ohio Northern University

2017- Black Church and African Diaspora Studies Coordinator

2017- Faculty Support, Black Seminarian Network

2014-2022 Anti-Racism Task Force, Member

2010-2011 Anti-Racism Task Force, Member

**Drew University**

2012-2013 Graduate Division of Religion, Co-Chair

**SERVICE TO THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY**

2022 Baccalaureate Speaker, University of Mount Union, Alliance, OH.

2022 Chapel Speaker, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH.

2022 Chapel Speaker, Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, FL.

2021 Peace and Justice Rally Speaker, East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, Canton, OH.

2020 Graduation Sunday Speaker, New Bethel Baptist Church, Youngstown, OH.

2020-2021 Church Planning Team, Freedom Church of the Poor, An Online Initiative through Kairos: The Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice

2020-2021 Member, Reading the Bible with the Poor Cohort, An Initiative through Kairos: The Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice and the National Poor People’s Campaign.

2020-2021 Board Member, The Spirituality Network, Columbus, OH.

2017 Social Justice Sunday Speaker, Toledo Mennonite Church, Toledo OH.

## **COURSES**

### **Methodist Theological School in Ohio**

CH 501: Survey of Global Christian History, PT/CH 755: Howard Thurman, CE710: Great Ethicists: Martin Luther King, Jr., CH 630: Introduction to Black Church Studies, CH 644: Race, Religion, and Nation: From Black Power to #BlackLivesMatter, CE 645: Feminist and Womanist Ethics, DM903: Communities and Societies, DM 951: The Global Experience and Black Religious Leaders

### **Course of Study of Ohio at MTSO**

COS 222: Theological Heritage II

COS 322: Theological Heritage III

### **Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**

CH 80: Race and American Christianity

## **TRAININGS AND CERTIFICATIONS**

2022 Certificate in Spiritual Direction, Spiritual Guidance Training Institute, Chicago, IL.

2018 Association of Title XI Administrators Training, Columbus, OH.