

Lisa M. Allen, Ph.D.
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ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Degree Coordinator, The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC)
Master of Arts in Liturgical Arts and Culture (MALC) – Appointed July 2019 – present

Master of Divinity (August 2013 – May 2015)

Duties include:

- Providing oversight of degree program
- Evaluating and implementing curricular delivery and development
- Setting program budgets
- Recruiting and evaluating faculty
- Recruiting and advising students
- Overseeing Master's theses and projects
- Working with faculty to determine and implement best practices
- Serving on administrative and faculty committees.

Church Music and Worship Department Chair, ITC, July 2005 – present.

Duties include:

- Teaching courses in the MALC, Master of Divinity, and Master of Religious Education degree programs
- Evaluating and implementing curricular delivery and development
- Setting department budgets
- Evaluating faculty
- Advising students
- Serving on faculty committees.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Music Scholar/Director-in-Residence, the American Church in Paris, Paris, France. **Term: January – June 2023.** Duties include:

- Teaching and demonstrating diverse worship methodologies and styles
- Presenting two research lecture-recitals on music and culture
- Providing worship/musical leadership for the traditional Sunday service, including directing the adult choir

L I S A M . A L L E N , P H . D .
C U R R I C U L U M V I T A E

(Teaching Experience, cont.)

Helmar Emil Nielsen Professor of Church Music and Worship, ITC, Atlanta, GA. **Appointed July 2005, tenured April 2011, promoted to full professor April 2019.** Classes Taught:

- Introduction to Christian Worship (required for all degree programs)
- Advanced Seminar in Worship and Liturgics
- Liturgical Worship and Preaching
- Choral Conducting
- Master's Project/Thesis
- Music in the Black Church
- Music Theory
- Performing Chorus
- Womanist Ways of Worship

EDUCATION

Postdoctoral Coursework for Educational Leadership Certification – Troy State University, Phenix City, AL, May 1998.

Ph.D. Music Education – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS, August 1993.

M.M.Ed. – University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, May 1989

M.Div. – Candler School of Theology, Emory University, May 2003.
Major fields of study - Black Church studies, Worship

B.M. Piano Performance – Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, May 1986

B.A. Music Education – Millsaps College, May 1986

COMPOSITIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Compositions

Christmas Is Waiting to Be Born: An Advent Cantata Inspired by the Works of Howard Thurman – December 2019; premiered at ITC, December 5, 2019

The Earth Is the Lord's – choral octavo commissioned by Dr. Michael Battle, ITC President, for the *Symposium on Theo-Ecology*, held at ITC, Fall 2007

(Compositions and Publications, cont.)

Books

The OneWord Worship Model: A New Paradigm for Church Worship Planning. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, forthcoming.

A Womanist Theology of Worship: Liturgy, Justice, and Communal Righteousness. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, November 2021

Development Comes Before Deliverance: A Nine-Week Sermon Series and Bible Study Guide on the Book of Exodus. Snellville, GA: Creative Publishing, 2017.

Worship Matters! A Collection of Essays on the Practical and Spiritual Discipline of Worship. Snellville, GA: Creative Publishing, 2015.

Book Chapters

“Change Agents of History: Stand Your Ground” – In *Sacred Sistering: A Thriving in Ministry Devotional for Women of Color Ministry Leaders*, a publication of the RISE Mentorship Network Women of Color Leadership Initiative, January 2022.

“OneWord: A New Paradigm for Planning Transformative Worship” – in *#MinistryThatImpacts*, a publication of the Rethinking Church Conference, 2021.

“Where Will You Go from Here?” – in *The Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness*, The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2017.

“Jesus Will Fix It...Afterwhile: The Role of Gospel Music in Tyler Perry Productions” – a book chapter in *Womanist and Feminist Responses to Tyler Perry’s Cultural Productions*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

“In the Spirit: Worship in the African American Tradition” – an article published in *Companion to the Africana Worship Book*, eds. Dr. Valarie Bridgeman Davis and Dr. Safiyah Fosua, (Nashville: Discipleship Resources), 2008.

Selected Journal Articles

“The Theo-Ethics of Negro Spirituals as Folklore and Their Import and Implications for 21st-Century *AfricansinAmerica*” – an article commissioned by Dr. Temba Mafico, editor of the *ITC Journal*, for a volume dedicated to the works of Dr. James Hal Cone and Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, published Fall 2019.

(Selected Journal Articles, cont.)

“Let Me Post This Praise on Facebook: Questions on the Use of Digital Technology in Worship” – an article commissioned for *Liturgy*, a journal series on worship, Fall 2014.

“Integrity in Worship” – an article commissioned by Bishop McKinley Young, published in *The Anvil*, a publication of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, published Summer 2010.

“A Black Theology of Worship” – an article commissioned by former ITC President Michael A. Battle, published in *The Lantern*, an ITC annual publication, Fall 2009.

Nationally Released DVD/Video Presentations

A King's Place: Atlanta, Georgia, featured participant in an online video presentation highlighting religious leaders continuing the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *The Root* Online Journal, February 2019, *Winner of a 2020 Webby Award* (First Place, People's Voice, Public Service and Activism Category)
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=243881859830469>

A Faithful Witness in Divided Times: Constructive Responses and Positive Solutions, United Methodist Church General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Atlanta, GA, December 2016
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8f7DpBlaZqs&list=PLREr4NzhmoXBZpHriQIa0AFHmXgGlk-wh&index=4>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yATpFFVB_Zk&list=PLREr4NzhmoXBZpHriQIa0AFHmXgGlk-wh&index=11
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABx8sKE-yLg&list=PLREr4NzhmoXBZpHriQIa0AFHmXgGlk-wh&index=12>

Reflect, Reclaim, Rejoice: Preserving the Gift of Black Sacred Music, UMC Discipleship Resources, October 2014. *Winner of a 2015 Emmy Award*
<https://vimeo.com/84870076>

SCHOLARLY PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

The 2021 ITC Copher Lecture, March 2021 – *A Womanist Theology of Worship: Recovering the Power of Ancestral Liturgies of Africans in America*

The Charles B. Copher Annual Faculty Lecture Series is named in honor of the late Dr. Charles B. Copher, who served ITC as Professor of Biblical Studies and Languages and Academic Dean.

(Scholarly Papers and Presentations, cont.)

Author/Panelist – Womanist Approaches Program Unit panel presentation on the 2021 publication, *A Womanist Theology of Worship*, the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2021, San Antonio, TX

Over My Head, I Hear Music in the Air: African Inheritance and Interconnections in Spirituals, Blues and Gospel Music – a paper presented in the Music and Religion Program Unit at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2019, San Diego, CA

The Category is “Realness”: Billy Porter on Coming Out and Be-Coming – a paper presented at the Evelyn Etheridge Conference on the Harlem Renaissance, October 2019, Paine College, Augusta, GA. Conference Theme: *The Black Male Agenda: Art, Politics and the Future Image of Race*.

Side by Side: How Hymnody Grew Up in Rural American Communities – a paper presented in the Arts and Religion Program Unit at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, November 2018, Denver, CO

Contributing Author/Panelist, November 2015 Panel: *Womanist and Feminist Responses to Tyler Perry Productions*, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar, Summer, 2010, Atlanta, GA
Presentation: *What Impact Did the Harlem Renaissance Have on the Worship Lives and Traditions of Black/African/Americans in the 1930s?*

The 2007 ITC Copher Lecture, March 2007- *Liturgy, Justice, and the Future of the Black Church*

SELECTED ADDRESSES AND WORKSHOPS

Guest Musicologist, *Juneteenth 2022: Lift Every Voice and Sing*, Video Production for the NETWORK: Black Integrated Communications Professionals, an initiative of the AT&T Diversity Equity and Inclusion Department, June 2022

Guest Clergy-Conversation Partner, Clinton College Chapel Virtual Worship Experience, March 2022

Guest Speaker, Timely Wisdom Podcast, Part I – September 2021/Part II – December 2021

Presenter, Society for Ethnomusicology Pre-Conference Symposium AUC Presentation, Wednesday, October 2021

(Selected Addresses and Workshops, cont.)

Presenter, Rethinking Church Virtual Summit, Workshop: The *OneWord* Worship Model, July 2021

Panelist, *We've Come This Far by Faith: The Power of the Hymn*, Virtual Panel Discussion sponsored by Hymns for Him, Inc., February 2021

Presenter, Festival of Homiletics, May 2020, Workshop: *Reading Congregations: How to Practice Cultural Literacy in Worship*

Panelist, *Scared of Lonely: Traditional Communalism as a Response to Modern Social Isolation*, A symposium at Spelman College, Atlanta, GA, March 2020

Opening Plenary Speaker, IMMERSION Conference, ITC, April 2019. Topic: *Planning for a Successful Seminary Experience*

Panelist and Presenter, Association of Theological Schools' African American Presidents and Deans (AAPD) Conference, Columbia Theological Seminary, February 2019. Topic: *The Gift of Africentrism in Leadership, Scholarship, and Teaching.*

Facilitator, Directors' Forum and Roundtable, *How Sweet the Sound: The 2nd Ecumenical Celebration of Music in the Black Church*, Atlanta GA, September 2016

Contributing Musicologist/Music Director, Emmy-award winning documentary, *Reflect, Reclaim, Rejoice: Preserving the Gift of Black Sacred Music*, October 2015.

Conference Presenter and Panelist, Black Church Studies 25th Anniversary Conference, Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, February 2015. Panel Topic: *Proclaiming Our Faith: More than a Shout and a Song~ Black Churches, Liturgies, and Worship*

Speaker, Farewell Service to President Nelson Mandela, sponsored by the African National Congress, Johannesburg, South Africa, December 2013

SELECTED MUSIC AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Worship Director/Artist-in-Residence, Black Theology and Leadership Institute, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, July 2022

(Selected Music and Worship Leadership Positions, cont.)

Director of Worship and Arts, Rize Community Church, Atlanta, GA, January, 2020 – January 2022

Conference Musician, 39th Convening of the General Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Birmingham, Alabama, June 2018

Musician-in-Residence, RISE Together National Mentorship Network Launch and Leadership Forum, Union Theological Seminary, New York, New York, March 2018

FTE Leadership Forum Worship Leader/Musician, Atlanta, GA, May 2017

Conference Musician, Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, February 2017

Conference Musician and Planner, Annual Conference of the California/Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church, San Francisco, CA, June 2016

Griot and Minister of Music, Black Religious Scholars Group Consultation Worship Service, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2015

Music Team Leader, Chrysalis Team, Ghana, West Africa, July 2005.
Duties included leading all aspects of worship music during the week-long spiritual formation retreat.

SELECTED CHURCH MUSIC AND WORSHIP POSITIONS

Mass Choir Director, Central United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA, July 2021 – present

Pastor of Worship and Music Ministries, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA – August 2010 – May 2013

Pastor of Worship and Music Ministries, East Point First Mallalieu United Methodist Church, East Point, GA – August 2005 – April 2010

Associate Pastor of Worship and Director of Music Ministries, Kingswood United Methodist Church, Dunwoody, GA – May 2003 – May 2005

Pastor of Worship and Music Ministries, Central United Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA – January 2002 – April 2003

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Faculty Member of the Year**, The ITC, April 2019
- 2018 Professor of the Year**, Phillips School of Theology, May 2018
- 2018 Inductee, Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers**, Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA, March 2018
- 2010 UNCF/Mellon Faculty Seminar** – research stipend awarded for proposal topic: “Impact of the Harlem Renaissance on the Worship Lives and Traditions of Black/African/Americans in the 1930s”
- 2006 Calvin Institute of Christian Worship Grant** – awarded to ITC for the inaugural Music, Worship, and Theology Conference, April 2007

ACADEMIC GUILDS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Society for the Study of Black Religion
Spelman College Sisters Chapel Advisory Council

REFERENCES

- Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III, President, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary,
Louisville, Kentucky, 1044 Alta Vista Rd., Louisville, KY 40205
apollard@lpts.edu; 202-997-6164 (mobile)
- Dr. Reginaldo P. Braga, Immediate Past Provost/Vice-President of Academic
Affairs, Associate Professor of Christian Education
The Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA 30314
rbraga@itc.edu; 917-596-4257 (mobile)
- Dr. Vanessa Lovelace, Vice-President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the
Seminary, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603; sismin@comcast.net; 312-485-0301
- Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH 43015
vbridgeman@mtso.edu; 740-362-3369 (office)
- Dr. John Paul McGee, Assistant Chair, Department of Piano
Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA 02215
Jmgee2@berklee.edu; 678-296-5205