STSRENGTHENING BLACK FAMILIES

An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching

Symposium Schedule

Wednesday, October 15
7:30 pm  Worship Celebration: Divine Love and Justice for Black Families with the United States, Homiletics Professor and Director of Black Church Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church

Thursday, October 16
9:30 am  Opening Statements
Forrest E. Harris Sr., Director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute
Martha Simmons, African American Lectionary Online

9:30 – 10:30 am  Plenary Session
Ethical Methods in Homiletics
Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Professor of Christian Ethics, Vanderbilt Divinity School

11:00 – 12:00 noon  Plenary Session
Historical Perspective of Social Crisis Preaching
Juan Floyd-Thomas, Professor of Church History, Vanderbilt Divinity School

12:30 – 1:45 pm  Luncheon
Luncheon Speaker
Brad Braxton, Senior Minister, Riverside Church, New York, NY

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Break Out Discussion Groups
Homiletics for Spirituality in African American Families
Tellis Chapman, Galilee Baptist Church, Detroit, MI

Homiletics for Sound Economics in African American Families
Delman Coates, Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Clinton, MD

Homiletics for Sound Health and Sexuality in African American Families
Dennis and Christine Wiley, Covenant Baptist Church, Washington, DC

Friday, October 17
9:30 am  Laying the Ground for a National Forum on "Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching"
Forrest E. Harris Sr., Director of the Kelly Miller Smith Institute
Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church

Consultation Rationale
This symposium is the first of several that brings together homiletic scholars and church leaders to create a network for interactive engagement and dialogue between homiletic scholars in the academy with Black Protestant churches in areas of homiletics, liturgics, sacred music, theological knowledge and enhance biblical exegetical skills for social crisis preaching. This online lectionary for the African American pulpit was launched January 1, 2008. Since its web-site appearance, the response to the African American lectionary has increasingly gained national and global interest.

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One of the most difficult issues facing Black preaching is the social breakdown of traditional African American families. Thus the goal of this symposium is:

To initiate theological dialogue on the role of prophetic homiletics in addressing social crises impacting African American families.

To assist pastors in their role as preacher/pastor/theologian and social justice advocate for empowering African American families.

To lay the ground work for the planning of a larger national forum on the same symposium theme, "Strengthening the Black Family: An Agenda for Sound Homiletics in Black Preaching.

The conference is free and open to the public.

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marriage, the physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman. Gen. 2:21-24, in which God fashions one wife for Adam, expresses... is an institution for the present rather than the future age (cf. Mark 12:25; 1 Cor. 7:8). It is nevertheless not to