

**DENNIS C. DICKERSON
REVEREND JAMES M. LAWSON, JR. CHAIR IN HISTORY
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

EDUCATION

B.A., Lincoln University (Pennsylvania), 1971
M.A., Washington University, 1974
Ph.D., Washington University, 1978
M.Div., Vanderbilt University, 2007
Additional Study: Hartford Seminary, 1997, 1999, 2006
Memphis Theological Seminary, 2004

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

1974 Part-Time Instructor in History, Forest Park Community College
1975-1976 Part-Time Instructor in History, Pennsylvania State University, Ogontz campus
1976-1983 Assistant Professor of History, Williams College
1983-1985, Associate Professor of History (with tenure), Williams College
1987-1988
1988-1992 Professor of History (with tenure), Williams College
1992-1999 Stanfield Professor of History (with tenure), Williams College
1985-1987 Associate Professor of History (with tenure), First Tennessee Professor, Rhodes College
1992, 1996, Visiting Professor, Payne Theological Seminary
1998, 2002, 2005, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014
1995 Visiting Professor of American Religious History, Yale Divinity School
1999- Professor of History (with tenure), Vanderbilt University
2001- Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University
2007- Reverend James M. Lawson Chair in History & Professor of History (with tenure), Vanderbilt University

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Out of the Crucible: Black Steelworkers in Western Pennsylvania, 1875-1980, (Albany, State University of New York Press, 1986)

Militant Mediator: Whitney M. Young, Jr. (Lexington, University Press of Kentucky, 1998), [National Conference of Black Political Scientists, Distinguished Book, 1999]

AFRICAN AMERICAN PREACHERS AND POLITICS: *THE CAREYS OF CHICAGO*, (Jackson, University Press of Mississippi, 2010).

***THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH: A HISTORY* (New York, Cambridge**

University Press, 2020).

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

A 'Brother in the Spirit of Gandhi': William Stuart Nelson and the Religious Origins of the Civil Rights Movement

Co-Author with Daniel Cornfield and Larry Isaac, MAKING A NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT: NASHVILLE'S PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (Tentative Title)

Articles, Book Chapters & Entries

- "George E. Cannon: Black Churchman, Physician and Republican Politician," Journal of Presbyterian History, Winter 1973, 51 (4), 411-432
- "Black Steelworkers in Western Pennsylvania, 1900-1950," Pennsylvania Heritage, December, 1977, 4 (1), 52-58
- "Success Story with a Difference," (Gaius Charles Bolin), Williams Alumni Review, Fall, 1979, 72, (1), 2-6.
- "The Black Church in Industrializing Western Pennsylvania, 1870-1950," Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, October, 1981, 64, (4), 329-344. Reprinted in Joe W. Trotter, Jr. And Eric Ledell Smith, editors, African Americans in Pennsylvania: Shifting Historical Perspectives (University Park, Pennsylvania, Penn State University Press, 1997), 388-402
- "Reverend Samuel Harrison: A Nineteenth Century Black Clergyman," in David W. Wills and Richard Newman, editors, Black Apostles at Home and Abroad: Afro-Americans and the Christian Mission from the Revolution to Reconstruction, (Boston, G.K. Hall, 1982), 147-160
- "Black Ecumenism: Efforts to Establish a United Methodist Episcopal Church, 1918-1932," Church History, (December 1983), 52, (4), 479-491.
- "Black Workers and Black Churches in Western Pennsylvania, 1915-1950," in David McBride, editor, Blacks in Pennsylvania History: Research and Educational Perspectives, (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1983), 51-62
- "Walter G. Alexander: A Physician in Civil Rights and Public Service," New Jersey History, Vol. 102, Nos. 3-4 (Fall/Winter, 1983), 37-59
- "William Fisher Dickerson: Northern Preacher/Southern Prelate," Methodist History, April, 1985, Vol. 23, No. 3, 135-152
- "Eugene Percy Roberts, M.D.: Black Physician and Leader," New York State Journal of Medicine, April, 1985, Vol. 85, No. 4, 143-144
- "Fighting on the Domestic Front: Black Steelworkers in Western Pennsylvania during World War II," in Charles Stephenson and Robert Asher, editors Life and Labor: Dimensions of American Working-Class History, (Albany, State University of New York Press, 1986), 224-236
- "Dr. Walter G. Alexander and Black Education: Comment and Response," (Co-author with Joseph S. Darden, Jr.), New Jersey History, Fall/Winter, 1987, Vol. 105, No. 3-4, 71-79
- "Charles H. Trusty: Black Presbyterian Missionary and Denominational Leader," American

- Presbyterians: Journal of Presbyterian History, Winter, 1989, Vol. 67, No. 4, 283-296
- “Whitney Young and the Civil Rights Movement” in Protest and Participation: Freedom Ain’t Free (Philadelphia, Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum, 1992), 19-20
- “Researching African Methodist Episcopal Church History,” in Victor M. Smythe and Howard Dodson, editors, African-American Religion: Research Problems and Resources for the 1990s (New York, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 1992), 2-9
- “African Methodism and Wesleyan Hymnody: Bishop Henry M. Turner in Georgia, 1896-1908,” Proceedings of the Charles Wesley Society, Vol. 3, 1996, 21-32
- “Black Leader in a White Denomination: Whitney M. Young, Jr. and the Unitarians,” Journal of Unitarian Universalist History, Vol. XXV, 1998, 26-40
- “Richard Allen: A Quintessential Wesleyan,” Evangelical Journal, Vol. 18, no. 2, Fall 2000, 53-61
- “Boyd L. Wilson,” in Gary M. Fink, editor, Biographical Dictionary of American Labor Leaders, 2nd edition, (Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1984), 586-587
- “Lester Blackwell Granger,” “Whitney Moore Young, Jr.” in Walter I. Trattner, editor, Biographical Dictionary of Social Welfare in America, (Westport, CT, Greenwood Press, 1986), 334-335; 816-818
- “Fair Employment Practices Committee”; “David J. McDonald”; “Elmer J. Maloy”; “United Steelworkers of America,” in Bruce Seely, editor, Encyclopedia of American Business History and Biography: Iron and Steel in the Twentieth Century (Columbia, South Carolina, Bruccoli Clark Layman, Inc. 1994), 119-120; 288-289; 300-301; 447-448
- “National Association for the Advancement of Colored People”, “Southern Christian Leadership Conference” in Charles Reagan Wilson and William Ferris, editors, Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 221, 224-225
- “African Methodist Episcopal Church,” “African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,” “James Varick,” “Bridge Street African Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal Church,” “Mother African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church,” in Kenneth T. Jackson, editor, Encyclopedia of New York City, (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1995), 9-10; 138-139; 776; 1225
- “The Christian Recorder” (co-author with Robert H. Reid, Jr.) in Mark Fackler and Charles H. Lippy in Popular Religious Magazines of the United States (Westport, Connecticut, Greenwood Press, 1995), 162-167
- “Willis Nazrey”; “Sojourner Truth”; in Donald M. Lewis, editor, The Blackwell Dictionary of Evangelical Biography, 1730-1860 (Oxford, England, Blackwell Publishers, 1995), 815; 1122
- “African Methodist Episcopal Church: Benjamin Elijah Mays” in Jack Salzman, David Lionel Smith, and Cornel West, editors, Encyclopedia of African American Culture and History, (New York, Macmillan Reference USA, 1996), 63-67; 1726-1727
- “African Methodist Episcopal Church”; “African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church”; “Richard Allen”; “Daniel A. Payne”; “Reverdy C. Ransom”; “Harriet Tubman”; “Henry M. Turner”; and “James Varick” in Charles Yrigoyen and Susan E. Warrick, Historical Dictionary of Methodism (Lanham, Maryland, Scarecrow Press, 1996), 13-16; 18-19; 166; 176-177; 212-213; 217
- “Joseph Sandiford Atwell”; “Llewellyn Longfellow Berry”; in John T. Kneebone, Brent Tarter,

- and Sandra Treadway, editors, Dictionary of Virginia Biography (Richmond, The Library of Virginia, 1998) 246; 462-463
- “National Urban League” in Waldo E. Martin and Patricia Sullivan, editors, Civil Rights in America, vol. 2 (New York, Macmillan, 2000), 535-536
- “Israel Lafayette Butt” in John T. Kneebone, Sara B. Bearss, Brent Tarter, J.J. Looney and Sandra Treadway, editors, Dictionary of Virginia Biography (Richmond, The Library of Virginia, 2001), 442-443
- “Phyllis Wheatley” in Hans J. Hillerbrand, editor, Encyclopedia of Protestantism, Volume 4, S-Z, (New York, Routledge, 2004). 2003
- “African American Religious Intellectuals and the Theological Foundations of the Civil Rights Movement, 1930-1955,” Church History, June 2005, 74, (2), 217-235.
- “Morris Brown” (co-author with Bernard E. Powers, Jr.); “Allen University” in Walter Edgar, editor, Encyclopedia of South Carolina (Columbia, University of South Carolina Press, 2006), 16-17; 103.
- “Heritage and Hymnody: Richard Allen and the Making of African Methodism” in Mark A. Noll & Edith L. Blumhofer, Editors, Sing Them Over Again to Me: Hymns and Hymnbooks in America, (Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama Press, 2006, 175-193.
- “George Dows Cannon”, “George Epps Cannon” in Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Editors, African American National Biography, Volume 2 (New York, Oxford University Press, 2008), 147-150.
- “The African American Wing of the Wesleyan Tradition” in Randy L. Maddox & Jason E. Vickers, Editors, The Cambridge Companion to John Wesley, (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010), 282-297.
- “Richard Allen: and the Making of Early American Methodism,” “Bishop Daniel A. Payne and the A.M.E. Mission to the ‘Ransomed,’” “Archibald J. Carey, Jr., African Methodism, and the Public Square” in Henry H. Knight, Editor, From Aldersgate to Azusa Street: Wesleyan, Holiness, and Pentecostal Visions of the New Creation, (Eugene, Oregon, Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2010), 72-77; 125-133; 36-321.
- “African American Churches and Their Theologies,” “African Methodist Episcopal Church,” “Richard Allen,” “Daniel A. Payne,” in Daniel A. Patte, Editor, CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY OF CHRISTIANITY, (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2010), 9-11; 16-17; 24; 935.
- “Liberation, Wesleyan Theology and Early African Methodism, 1766-1840,” Wesley and Methodist Studies, Volume 3, Manchester, U. K., Didsbury Press, 2011, 109-120.
- “Formation and Consolidation of African American Religious Communities, 1865-1945,” in Stephen Stein, Editor, THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS IN AMERICA, Volume II, 1790-1945, (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2012), 300-323.
- “‘Movement Schools’ and Dialogical Diffusion of Nonviolent Praxis: Nashville Workshops in the Civil Rights Movement” (co-author with Larry W. Isaac, Daniel B. Cornfield, James M. Lawson, Jr., and Jonathan S. Coley), NONVIOLENT CONFLICT AND CIVIL RESISTANCE: RESEARCH IN SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, CONFLICT AND CHANGE, Vol. 34, Bingley, U. K., Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2012, 155-184.

- “African American Methodism,” “Black Theology,” “Social Gospel,” in Al Truesdale, Editor, *GLOBAL WESLEYAN DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY*, Kansas City, Missouri, Beacon Hill Press of Kansas City, 2013, 40-42; 86-88; 502-503
- “African American Methodists and the Making of the Civil Rights Movement,” in Jason E. Vickers, Editor, *THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO AMERICAN METHODISM*, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2013, 296-315
- “James M. Lawson, Jr.: Methodism, Nonviolence, and the Civil Rights Movement,” *METHODIST HISTORY*, April 2014, Volume LII, Number 3, 168-186.
- “William Stuart Nelson and the Interfaith Origins of the Civil Rights Movement,” in R. Drew Smith, William Ackah, and Anthony G. Reddie, Editors, *CHURCHES, BLACKNESS, AND CONTESTED MULTICULTURALISM*, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, 57-72.
- “Preparation Pathways and Movement Participation: Insurgent Schooling and Nonviolent Direct Action in the Nashville Civil Rights Movement” (co-author with Larry W. Isaac, (lead author) and Daniel Cornfield, *MOBILIZATION*, 21, July 2016, 2:155-176.
- “Occupational Activism and Racial Desegregation at Work: Activist Careers after the Nonviolent Nashville Civil Rights Movement” (Co-author with Daniel B. Cornfield, (lead author), Jonathan S. Coley, and Larry W. Issac in Ethel L. Mickey and Ada Harvey Wingfield, Editors, *RACE, IDENTITY AND WORK*, Book Series: *RESEARCH IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF WORK*, Volume 32, Bingley, United Kingdom, Emerald Publishing, 2019, 217—248.
- “The Great Migration” in Heath W. Carter and Laura Rominger Porter, Editors, *TURNING POINTS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2017, 180-202.
- “Gandhi’s India and Beyond: Black Women’s Religious and Secular Internationalism, 1935-1952,” *JOURNAL OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY*, Volume 104, Number 1, Winter 2019, 59-83.
- “Religious Frames: US Civil Rights Movement,” *OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA OF POLITICS*, June 2019, DOI: 10: 1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.656 Published online: 25 June 2019
- “Moral Discernment and Slavery: The Case of the African Methodist Episcopal Church” in Myriam Wijlens, Vladimir Shmailiy, and Simone Sinn, Editors, *CHURCHES AND MORAL DISCERNMENT: LEARNING FROM HISTORY*, Volume 2 Geneva, Switzerland, World Council of Churches Publications, 2021, 85-102.
- “The African American Denominational Tradition: The Rise of Black Denominations,” *OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN HISTORY*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.013.876> Published online: 29 September 2021

BOOK REVIEWS

- Loretta J. Williams, *Black Freemasonry and Middle Class Realities*, (Columbia, University of Missouri Press, 1980), *American Historical Review*, December 1981, 1165-1166
- Philip Scranton and Walter Licht, *Work Sights: Industrial Philadelphia, 1890-1950* (Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1986), *Labor History*, Summer 1987, 406-407

- Richard A. Pride and J. David Woodard, The Burden of Busing: The Politics of Desegregation in Nashville, Tennessee (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1985); West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, December 1987, 83-84
- Peter Gottlieb, Making Their Own Way: Southern Blacks' Migration to Pittsburgh, 1916-1930, (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1987), American Historical Review, June 1988, 789
- Ronald L. Lewis, Black Coal Miners in America: Race, Class, and Community Conflict, 1780-1980 (Lexington, University Press of Kentucky, 1987); Western Pennsylvania Historical Magazine, April 1988, 178-181
- Daniel Rosenberg, New Orleans Dockworkers: Race, Labor, and Unionism, 1892-1923, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1988); Journal of American History, June 1989, 277-278
- Paul F. Clark, Peter Gottlieb, and Donald Kennedy, editors, Forging a Union of Steel: Philip Murray, SWOC, and the United Steelworkers, (Ithaca, New York, ILR Press, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, 1987); Business History Review, (Summer 1989), 425-426
- David E. Swift, Black Prophets of Justice: Activist Clergy before the Civil War (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1989); North Carolina Historical Review, (July 1990), 372-373
- Robert Asher and Charles Stephenson, editors, Labor Divided: Race and Ethnicity in United States Labor Struggles, 1835-1960 (Albany, State University of New York Press, 1990); Journal of American History, June 1991, 321-322
- Joe William Trotter, Jr., Coal, Class and Color: Blacks in Southern Western Virginia, 1915-1932 (Urbana, University of Illinois Press, 1990); Journal of American History (March 1993, 1647-1648
- Timothy E. Fulop and Albert J. Raboteau, Jr. Editors, African American Religion: Interpretive Essays in History and Culture, (New York, Routledge, 1997); Church History, March 1999, 201-202
- William Seraille, FIRE IN HIS HEART: BISHOP BENJAMIN TUCKER TANNER, Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1999, METHODIST HISTORY, October 1999, 66-67
- Gerald D. McKnight, The Last Crusade: Martin Luther King, Jr., the F.B.I., and the Poor People's Campaign, (Boulder, Colorado, Westview Press, 1998); Journal of Southern History, November 2001, 901-902
- Canter Brown, Jr. and Larry Eugene Rivers, For a Great and Grand Purpose: The Beginnings of the AMEZ Church in Florida, 1864-1905, (Gainesville, University Press of Florida, 2004) Journal of American History, December 2005, 1000-1001.
- Nick Salvatore, Singing in a Strange Land: C. L. Franklin, the Black Church, and the Transformation of America, (New York and Boston, Little, Brown and Company, 2005), Journal of Southern History, May 2006, 507-509.
- Cynthia Taylor, A. Philip Randolph: The Religious Journey of an African American Labor Leader, (New York, New York University Press, 2006), Church History, December 2007, 874-875.
- Houston Bryan Roberson, Fighting the Good Fight: The Story of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, 1865-1977 (New York, Routledge, 2005), Church History,

- March 2007, 215-216.
- James B. Bennett, *Religion and the Rise of Jim Crow in New Orleans*, (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2005), *American Historical Review*, April 2008, 211.
- Michael G. Long, *Billy Graham and the Beloved Community: America's Evangelist and the Dream of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, (New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006), *Journal of Religion*, October 2008, 531-532.
- Edward J. Robinson, *Show Us How You Do It: Marshall Keeble and the Rise of Black Churches of Christ in the United States, 1914-1968*, (Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama Press, 2008), *Church History*, September 2009, 696-698.
- Richard S. Newman, *Freedom's Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, the AME Church, and the Black Founding Fathers*, (New York, New York University Press, 2008), *Church History*, December 2009, 909-911.
- Curtis J. Evans, *The Burden of Black Religion*, New York, Oxford University Press, 2008), *American Historical Review*, October 2009, 1093-1094.
- Michael K. Honey, *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*, (New York & London, W.W. Norton and Company, 2008), *Journal of Southern History*, November 2010), 1069-1071.
- John Herbert Roper, *THE MAGNIFICENT MAYS: A BIOGRAPHY OF BENJAMIN ELIJAH MAYS*, (Columbia, University of South Carolina Press, 2012), *Journal of Southern History*, November 2013, 999-1001.
- Genna Rae McNeil, *Houston Bryan Roberson, Quinton Hosford Dixie, and Kevin McGruder, WITNESS: 200 YEARS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH & PRACTICE AT ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF HARLEM, NEW YORK*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2013), *Journal of American History*, March 2015, 1236-1237.
- Christopher Robert Reed. *KNOCK AT THE DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY: BLACK MIGRATION TO CHICAGO, 1900-1919*, (Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press, 2014), *American Historical Review*, October 2015, 1500-1501.
- Joseph T. Reiff, *BORN OF CONVICTION: WHITE METHODISTS AND MISSISSIPPI'S CLOSED SOCIETY*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2016) and Carol V. R. George, *ONE MISSISSIPPI, TWO MISSISSIPPI: METHODISTS, MURDER, AND THE STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN NESHOPA COUNTY*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2015), *Wesley and Methodist Studies*, Vol. 9. No. 2. 2017, 199-202.
- Mary Beth Swetnam, *DOCTRINE AND RACE: AFRICAN AMERICAN EVANGELICALS AND FUNDAMENTALISM BETWEEN THE WARS*, (Tuscaloosa, University of Alabama Press, 2017), *Church History*, June 2018, 618-620.
- D. H. Dilbeck, *FREDERICK DOUGLASS: AMERICA'S PROPHET*, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2018), *Church History*, September 2018, 932-934.
- Walter Earl Fluker, *THE GROUND HAS SHIFTED: THE FUTURE OF THE BLACK CHURCH IN POST-RACIAL AMERICA*, New York, New York University Press, 2016), *Sociology of Religion*, srz039, <https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/srz039>

Published 27 November 2019.

Kathryn Gin Lum and Paul Harvey, editors, *THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF RELIGION AND RACE IN AMERICAN HISTORY*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2018), Church History, December 2019, 1067-1069.

Edward J. Robinson, *HARD-FIGHTING SOLDIERS: A HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES OF CHRIST*, (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 2019), Church History, September 2020, 720-722.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, LECTURES

Over 50 conference papers and public lectures in the United States, Great Britain, and Brazil between 1973-2019. Since 2002, these presentations have included:

- “Methodism and Millennialism: The Construction of A.M.E. Church Identity, 1881-1901, Eleventh Oxford Institute on Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford University, Oxford, England (2002)
- “Salvation and Separatism: William H. Franklin and the Presbyterian Mission to the Freedmen in East Tennessee”, Tennessee Conference of Historians, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee (2002)
- “W.E.B. Du Bois, *THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK*, and the Genesis of African American Religious History”, American Society of Church History, Chicago, Illinois (2003)
- “Reverend J.A. De Laine, Civil Rights, and African Methodism”, The Citadel Conference on the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina (2003)
- “Homiletics and the Humble: (A.M.E.) Preaching in Georgia during the Turner Era, 1896-1908”, Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia (2004)
- “Reflections on Richard Allen and the Making of Early American Methodism”, Wesleyan/Pentecostal Consultation, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri (2004)
- “African American Religious Intellectuals and the Theological Foundations of the Civil Rights Movement, 1930-1955”, American Society of Church History [Presidential Address], Seattle, Washington (2005)
- “Bishop Daniel A. Payne and the A.M.E. Mission to the ‘Ransomed’”, Wesleyan/Pentecostal Consultation, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Missouri (2005)
- “Moral Principles and Praxis: William Stuart Nelson, George D. Kelsey and the Making of Civil Rights Ideology”, American Society of Church History, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, (2006).
- “Teologia wesleyana no contexto afro-americano” (Wesleyan Theology in the Afro-American Context”) at Teologia Wesleyana nos Caminhos do Brasil (The Future of Wesleyan Theology in Brazil), Universidade Metodista de Sao Paulo/Faculdade de Teologia (Methodist University of Sao Paulo/Faculty of Theology), Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 23, 2006.
- “Archibald J. Carey, Jr.: Background Benefactor to the Civil Rights Movement”, American Academy of Religion, Southeastern Region, Nashville, Tennessee, March 17, 2007.

- “Rooted in India: William Stuart Nelson and the Religious Origins of the Civil Rights Movement,” Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Lecture Institute of Religious Leadership Lecture, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, April 19, 2007
- “The Wesleyan Witness in the U. S. Civil Rights Movement: The Allen Legacy Against 20th Century American Apartheid”, Twelfth Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Christ Church College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, August 17, 2007.
- “Teaching Nonviolence: William Stuart Nelson and His Role in the Civil Rights Movement,” Conference on Religion in the Civil Rights Movement, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, April 4, 2009.
- “Unrealized Possibilities in Religious History & Religious Studies,” Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 5, 2009.
- “Liberation, Wesleyan Theology and Early African Methodism,” “The A.M.E. Zion Tradition and Wesleyan Social Holiness,” “Social Holiness in Microcosm: The Case of the Clements,” Heritage Lectures, Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina, February 10-11, 2011.
- “Black New England Clergy and the Abolition Movement,” National Endowment for Humanities Summer Institute, Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, June 23, 2011.
- Panelist, Methodism and Race, Wesleyan Theological Society annual meeting, Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, Tennessee, March 3, 2012.
- “William Stuart Nelson and the Interfaith Origins of the Civil Rights Movement,” Conference on Black Church Activism and Contested Multiculturalism in Europe, North America, and Africa, Birkbeck/University of London, London, England, May 29, 2012.
- Panelist, Formation and Consequences of the Early Nashville Nonviolent Civil Rights Movement; Memorializing Nashville’s Civil Rights History, The Association for Humanist Sociology annual meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, November 9, 2012.
- “Methodism, Pacifism, and Gandhian Nonviolence in the Civil Rights Movement: The Principles and Praxis of James M. Lawson, Jr.,” Wesley/Methodist Historical Studies Group, 13th Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Christ Church College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, August 17, 2013.
- “Activist Black Methodists and the Civil Rights Movement,” Inside Agitators: Still Missing Pages of the Civil Rights Movement Panel, Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Jacksonville, Florida, October 5, 2013.
- Panelist, Food For Thought Event, Reflections of the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville: Then and Now, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, Tennessee, November 5, 2013.
- “Wesleyan Identity in Black Methodist Perspective: A Historical and Constructive Theological Conversation,” Wesleyan Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland, November 24, 2013.
- “William Stuart Nelson in India: The Making of a Religious Intellectual,” American Academy in Berlin, Berlin, Germany, February 11, 2014
- “Wesleyan Social Holiness, African Methodism, and the U. S. Civil Rights Movement,”

Manchester Wesley Research Centre, Nazarene Theological College, Didsbury, Manchester, England, April 1, 2014.

“‘The Long Civil Rights Movement’ in International Perspective: The Case of an American Gandhian,” John F. Kennedy Institute, Free University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, April 14, 2014.

“Religious Insurgency and ‘The Long Civil Rights Movement,’” W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture Series, Humboldt/University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany, May 6, 2014.

“Conceptualizing James M. Lawson, Jr.: Toward a Biography of Moral Insurgency,” Organization of American Historians, Providence, Rhode Island, April 10, 2016.

“Central Themes in the History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,” The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, October 12, 2018.

“A ‘Brother in the Spirit of Gandhi’”: William Stuart Nelson and Nonviolence in the Civil Rights Movement,” Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, October 24, 2019.

RESEARCH GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

Grant-in-Aid, New Jersey Historical Commission 1979

Grant, American Philosophical Society 1979

Chairman’s Special Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities 1982

Moody Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation 1983

Grant-in-Aid, American Council of Learned Societies 1983

Albert J. Beveridge Grant, American Historical Association 1983

Research Fellowship, Rockefeller Foundation Research Fellowship Program for Minority Group Scholars 1983-1984

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for the Study of Civil Rights, Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies, University of Virginia 1987-1988

Travel to Collections Grant, National Endowment for the Humanities 1990

Religious Institutions Sabbatical Grant, The Louisville Institute 2003-2004

Resident Fellowship, James Weldon Johnson Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies, Emory University, 2008-2009 (Declined to care for ailing parent)

Siemens Fellow, American Academy in Berlin, Spring 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, HONORS, DISTINCTIONS

Member, Committee of Examiners for the G.R.E. Subject Test in History, Educational Testing Service, 1990-1996

Trustee, North Adams State College (now Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts) 1992-1995

Chairman, Department of History, Williams College 1998-1999

Chairman, Board of Trustees, American Bible Society, 2006-2011; Trustee, 1996-2011; Chair, Presidential Search Committee, 2005-2006.

African & African American Studies External Consultant, University of Notre Dame, 2004

Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2004; 2006; 2014

Panelist, American Council of Learned Societies, 2004; 2005

President, American Society of Church History, 2004-2005

Transition Review Team, Wake Forest University School of Divinity, 2009

Historiographer, African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1988-2012
Editor, AME CHURCH REVIEW, 2000-2012
Committee to Visit the Harvard Divinity School, 2014-2019

MAIN COURSES TAUGHT (PAST DECADE)

African American History to Reconstruction
African American History since Reconstruction
The Civil Rights Movement
Religion and the Civil Rights Movement
African American Religious History
20th Century African American Religious History
History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
20th Century American Religious Movements
Social History of American Medicine
American Labor History
F.D.R., The New Deal, and World War II
United States History, 1865-1945
Health and the African American Experience
History of Religion in America (Vanderbilt Divinity School)
U. S. Religious History (Undergraduate)
Barack Obama: Man and President (New Course-Spring 2019)
First Year Writing Seminar: Gandhi (New Course-Spring 2019)
Religion and the State: Modern Reckonings in Transnational Perspective
(New Course-Fall 2020)

PH.D. STUDENTS (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY) [PRIMARY ADVISOR]

Steven P. Miller, "The Politics of Decency: Billy Graham, Evangelicalism, and the End of the Solid South, 1950-1980" (Committee Co-Chair) (History), [Ph.D. conferred in March 2006]

Peter A. Kuryla, "Narratives of Race and Reaction: The Civil Rights Movement and Ideas of Education, 1940-1980" (History) [Ph.D. conferred in May 2007]

Theodore Wesley Crawford, "Race, the Church of Christ, and the Obie Elie v. Athens Clay Pullias Case" (Graduate Department of Religion) [Ph.D. conferred in August 2008]

Larry O. Rivers, "James Hudson: Tallahassee Theologian and Civil Rights Activist" (History) [Ph.D. Conferred in June 2011]

Ipsita Chatterjea, "A.M.E. Women: Agency, Autonomy, and Religious Belief as Social Force" (Graduate Department of Religion) [Ph.D. conferred in May 2014]

Jonathan Hansen, "Water, Faith, and Development in Northern Kenya" (Department of History) [Ph.D. conferred in May 2015]

Anthony C. Siracusa, "'A More Durable Weapon': Religious Discourse and Nonviolence in the Black Freedom Movement, 1918-1960" [Ph.D. conferred in August 2017]

CURRENT PH.D. STUDENTS FOR WHOM I AM THE PRIMARY ADVISOR

Martina Schaefer

Kayleigh Whitman

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY)

Chairman, (Provost's) Search Committee for Director of the Black Cultural Center

Chairman, Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Series Committee

Dean's Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure

Administrative Committee

Chairman, Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

African American Studies Committee

Religious Affairs Committee

Rules & Procedures Committee, College of Arts & Sciences

Faculty Senate

Dean of Arts and Sciences Search Committee

Research Grant Selection Committee (Arts & Sciences)

Committee on Educational Policy

Review Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Deanship

Chairman, Stahlman Chair Search Committee

Chancellor's Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community

Coordinator: WRESTLING WITH OUR PAST: VANDERBILT, RACE, AND THE CONFEDERATE FLAG: A SYMPOSIUM ON RACE AND RECONCILIATION, March 22-23, 2017.

HISTORIOGRAPHER OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1988-2012: SELECT PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Religion, Race, and Religion: Research Notes on A.M.E. Church History, Nashville, A.M.E. Sunday School Union/Legacy Publishing, 1995)

A Liberated Past: Explorations in A.M.E. Church History (Nashville, A.M.E. Sunday School Union, 2003)

African Methodism and Its Wesleyan Heritage: Reflections on A.M.E. Church History (Nashville, A.M.E. Sunday School Union, 2009)

Co-editor with Thomas Hoyt, The African American Jubilee Edition of the Holy Bible, (New York, American Bible Society, 1999, 2012) [Includes over 300 pages of scholarly articles including my own, "A History of the Black Church," 187-201]

PERSONAL

Born on August 12, 1949 in McKeesport, Pennsylvania

Married on August 6, 1977 to Mary Anne Eubanks Dickerson

We are parents to four adult children, all married:

Nicole Dickerson Kinnard, M.B.A. (Houston Thomas Kinnard, Jr.)

Valerie Dickerson Cordero, Ph.D. (Yosvany Cordero)

Christina Dickerson Cousin, Ph.D. (Reverend Steven A. Cousin, Jr.)

Dennis C. Dickerson, Jr., Ed.D. (Chaplain Major Dianna Watkins Dickerson)

We are grandparents to eleven grandchildren:

Melanie Maria Rose Dickerson

Morgan Nicole Kinnard

Yordany William Cordero

Steven Anthony Cousin III

Dennis C. Dickerson III

Samuel Philip Allen Cousin

Yocelin Mariela Cordero

Dionne Yvonne Dickerson

Devin KInnard

Tavian Kinnard

Yoandra Codero Sarabaza

Ministry:

Ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Interim Minister: Second Congregational Church, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Pastor: Payne African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chatham, New York

Pastor: St Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church, Munford, Tennessee

General Officer: African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1988-2012

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