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FORREST E. HARRIS, SR.

Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry

Vanderbilt Divinity School

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Education:

Doctor of Ministry, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Program Thesis: Theology and Praxis: Social Ministry in the Black Church, 1988-90

Master of Divinity, Vanderbilt Divinity School,

Program Thesis: Black Theology and the Black Church: A Perspective of
Liberation Ministry, 1979-83

Bachelors of Theology, American Baptist College,

Concentration: Black Church Studies, 1979- 80

Bachelors of Arts, Knoxville College,

Double Major: Sociology and Psychology, 1967 -71

Professional Academic Employment:

President, American Baptist College, 1999 –

Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry, Director of Kelly Miller
Church Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, 2013 -

Assistant Professor in the Practice of Ministry, Director, Kelly Miller Smith
Institute on African American Church Studies; Dean of African American
Church Studies, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN., 1996 -2013

Dean for Student Life, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1988 - 96

Adjunct Professor, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, 1994 - 96

Instructor, Black Studies, Roane State Community College, Harriman, TN., 1985 - 87

Professional Employment

Employment Consultant, Robert Shaw Controls Company, Knoxville, TN., 1977 -78

Facility Compliance Officer, United States Energy Research and Development Administration, Oak Ridge, TN., 1971 – 77

Minority Program Development Officer, Roane State Community College, Harriman, TN., 1985 -87

Church Employment

Pastor, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Nashville, TN., 1989 - 90

Pastor, Oak Valley Baptist Church, Oak Ridge, TN., 1979 - 88

Publications:

Books

Ministry for Social Crisis: Theology and Praxis in the Black Church Tradition, Macon: Mercer University Press, 1993.

What Does It Mean to be Black and Christian? Pulpit, Pew, and Academy in Dialogue, Nashville: Townsend Press, 1993

Survival of a Whole People: The Meaning of the African American Church, Nashville, Townsend Press, 1996.

Articles in Books, Journals

"Pursuing American Racial Justice and a Politically and Theologically Informed Black Church Praxis," Contesting Post-Racialism: Conflicted Black Churches in the United States and South Africa, R. Drew Smith, William Ascah, Anthony G. Reddie and Rothney S. Tashaka, 2015

The Children Have Come to Birth: A Theological Response for Survival and Quality of Life", Walk Together Children: Black and Womanist Theologies, Church and Theological Education, Dwight N. Hopkins and Linda E. Thomas, Editors, Cascade Books: Oregon, 2010

"What Does It Mean to be Black and Christian?" Black Theology: A Documentary History: 1980 – 1992, James Cone and Gayraud Wilmore, Editors, Maryknoll: Orbis Press, 1992

"Economics and Racism", Baptist Against Racism, Denton Lotz, Baptist World Alliance Press, 1999

"South Africa Beyond Apartheid," The Journal of Intergroup Relations, The National Association of Human Rights Workers, Fall 1993

Facing The Future with Faith," National Baptist Union Review, February 1989.

"*Why Black Theology*," National Baptist Union Review, Feb. 1986

"*Facing The Future with Faith*," National Baptist Union Review, Feb. 1989

"*Why Black Theology*," National Baptist Union Review, Feb. 1986

Published Sermon/Commentary

"*Earth Day*", African American Lectionary, 2010

"*Marriage Enrichment*", African American Lectionary, 2010

"*Economic Justice*", African American Lectionary, 2009

"*Pastoral Anniversary*", African American Lectionary, 2009

"*Living with Deferred Hope*", Joy to the World Inspirational Christmas Messages from America's Preachers, editor, Olivia M. Cloud, Simon & Schuster, 2006

Work in Progress

Black Theology in Practice, T&T Clark Publisher, Theology Companion Series, Editor Frederick Ware, 2018

Unpublished Articles

The Future that Threatens US and the Future that Calls Us to Change
Are Here, 2017

The Intersectionality of Race and Religion in the Era of Donald Trump, 2017

Public Lectures/Addresses

Standing in a Tragic Gap: A Prophet's Stance Between the Bitter and the Sweet, Martin Luther King, Jr.
Ecumenical Service, Lexington, Kentucky, January 2017

The Meaning of Martin Luther King, Jr. in the Age of Donald Trump, Vanderbilt Divinity School, January 2017

The Intersectionality of Race and Religion in the Era of Donald Trump, Howard University, July 2017

Trans-Atlantic Round Table, The Intersectionality of Race, Religion and Ethnicity in the Era of Donald Trump,
Howard University, June 2017

A Prophetic Brief – Between Split Altars, C.D. Hubert Lectures, Moreshouse School of Religion
, Interdenominational Theological Center, April 2015

The Pendulum of Justice, Spring Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture, Colgate Divinity School, Rochester, NY 2015

A Prophet of Love, Campsbellville University, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, 2015

The Pendulum of a Prophet, Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan,
2013

Social Madness Meets Mystery, July Summer Preaching Series, Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Nashville, Tn., July 2011

Honoring Legacies and Changing Lives: Celebrating 25 Years of Vanderbilt's KMSI, 2011

Labors Rooms for Justice, Third Baptist Church, San Francisco, Ca, November 2011

The A Confrontation with Hope, The 13th Episcopal District, AME Church, July 2011

National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, "Black Theology and the Black Church", Indianapolis, Indiana, June 2010

National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Black Churches: Morality and Mission, Kansas City, Missouri, 2009

A Grand Vision for Great Leadership, Installation Sermon, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., January 2009

Thinking Theologically, New Prospect Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, 2008

A Nation with the Soul of Martin Luther King, Jr., The University of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo, January 2008

The Children Have Come to Birth, Covenant Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., October 2008

A Wilderness Conversation about Freedom, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., Birmingham, Al, January 2007

Strives Towards the Dream, Scarritt Bennett Center, January 2007

Striving Toward Justice, Martin Luther King Celebration, Rust College, Holly Springs, Mississippi, 2005

Walk to Freedom not Back to Slavery, Kentucky State University, Franklin, Kentucky, 2000

A Theology of Hospitality: An Alternative to Global Conflict, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

Acts of Hospitality, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, October 2006

Transformation of a Nightmare, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Seattle, Washington, September 2001

Living Justly and Faithfully, The Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. Belmont University, Nashville, Tn., January 1999

The Risk of Faith, Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan, 1998

African Americans and Civil Rights: A Reappraisal, Department of Veterans Affairs, Nashville, Tn., 1996

Acts of Hospitality, Chandler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga, 2002

The Vision of Martin Luther King: A Message of Reconciliation and Justice, Trevecca Nazarene College, Nashville, TN, 2009

A Nation with the Soul of Martin Luther King, Jr., Austin Peay University, Clarksville, TN, 2001

Economics and Racisms, President Jimmy Carter Center, Atlanta, Ga, 1999

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: AIDS/HIV and the Black Church,

African American AIDS Coalition of Alameda County, Oakland, CA, 1996

Leadership in the Black Church, Perkins Theological Seminary, Dallas, TX, 1996

What does it mean to be Black and Christian? Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA., 1996

A Theology of Struggle, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, PA, 1996

The Crisis of Black Youth, National Congress of Christian Educators, National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. St. Louis Missouri, June 1996.

Leadership in the Black Church, Garnett Nabrit Lectures, American Baptist College, Nashville, TN., April 1996.

Theology and Ministry in the Black Church, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN, 1995

Black Power and White Supremacy, Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, TN., 1993

Blacks and Jews: Cultural Conflict and Unity, Jewish Women and Hadassah Joint Study Commission, Nashville, TN., 1993

Social Justice and Evangelism, Memphis Conference Council on Ministries, The United Methodist Church, Jackson, TN., 1990

The Legacy of Civil Rights Leadership in Nashville, Metropolitan Historical Commission, Nashville, TN., 1990

The Healing Gifts of the Black Church, Progressive National Baptist Convention, Oakland CA, 1990

Diversity in Community, Maryville College, Maryville, TN., 1989

The Challenge of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the University: Justice Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN., 1988

Affirmative Action: The American Experiment: Implications for South Africa, World Baptist Alliance, Durbin, South Africa, 1998.

“Why Black Theology”, National Baptist Union Review, February 1986

Presentations/ Video, Studio Series

“Labor Rooms of Justice,” Reckoning with Power: Destroying Caste and Restoring Communities, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Chicago, Ill, 2012

Journey Films, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The Black Church’s Influence on Dietrich Bonhoeffer,” Broadcast of the Film Bonhoeffer, PBS, Stations Nationwide, February 2006

Hear Every Voice TV Show, Tying Nashville Together, John P. Blessington, Executive Producer, Ted Holmes Producer, Publicity (CBS/New York)

Jesus Conference, "Who is Jesus" and "What is the significance of Jesus for people Today," with Professors Gail O' Day, A. H. Shatford, Stephen Patterson, Chattanooga, Tn., Hosted by Dr. James Catanzaro, Chattanooga State College, Chattanooga, Tn., October, 2005

The Young Library for Progressive Theology, Faith and Reason Studio Series, D.L. Dykes Foundation

Faith and Reason Series (Bishop John Spong and Dr. Forrest Harris), "Is God Just?" Disc 3:97-07

Faith and Reason Series (Bishop John Spong and Dr. Forrest Harris), "Does God Use Us?" Disc 3: 97-03

Faith and Reason Series (Dr. Walter Brueggemann and Dr. Forrest Harris), "Is it all Right with God that we Suffer?" Disc 3: 97-08

Faith and Reason Series (Dr. Walter Brueggemann and Dr. Forrest Harris), "Don't I have a Right to my Personal Rights?" Disc 3: 97- 11

Faith and Reason Series (Dr. Walter Brueggemann and Dr. Forrest Harris), "Whom Did Jesus Exclude From the Church?" Disc 3: 97: 19

Ecclesial Racism: The Church's Response, Commission on Race and Religion, United Methodist Church Conference, Louisville, KY., 1990.

Funded Grants Projects

Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Leading Lives of Commitment and Purpose, Grant Award - \$1,500,000, 2017-

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, Renewal Grant - \$1,000,000, 2009-13

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, Grant Award - \$2,000,000, 2005-06

African American Lectionary, Grant Renewal -\$200,000, 2011 - 12

African American Lectionary, Grant Award -\$1,000,000, 2007 - 10

Clergy and Laity: Theological Education in Black Churches - \$841,000, 2001-03

Theology and Ministry in Black Churches, Grant Renewal - \$ \$408,000, 1993 -96

Theology and Ministry in Black Churches, Grant Award - Grant Amount: \$375 000, 1990- 93

The PEW Charitable Trust

Theology and Ministry in Black Churches, Grant Renewal - \$150,000, 1993 – 96

Theology and Ministry in Black Churches, Grant Award- \$190,000, 1990 – 93

Booth Ferris Foundation

Theology and Ministry in Black Churches, Grant Award- \$200,000, 1990 -92

Fundraising/Endowment

Vanderbilt University, Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies - \$1,500,000

American Baptist College, Faculty Chair in Pastoral Leadership - \$1,200,000

Sponsored Conferences

Vanderbilt Divinity School, Kelly Miller Smith Institute on Black Church Studies

Jobs and Justice: The Black Church and Labor, 2017

Prison Reform and Social Justice, The Cal Turner Center for Moral Leadership, 2016

Womanist Discourse and Congregational Praxis, New York, 2012

African American Lectionary Conference, "We Who Believe", Vanderbilt Divinity School, 2010

African American Lectionary Symposium, "Strengthening Black Families: An Agenda for Sound Homiletics, 2008

The Black Church and Public Policy, Vanderbilt Divinity School, KMSI, 2006

The Black Church and Human Sexuality, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 2000

Symposium: Human Sexuality, Theological Response of the Black Church, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1999

What does it mean to be Black and Christian? Evaluating, Reviving and Revisioning the Meaning of the African American Church? Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1996

What does it mean to be Black and Christian? Spiritual Renewal and Economic Empowerment, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1994

Consultation of Deans of Black Church Studies Programs: Theological Education and the Training of Leaders for the Black Church, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1993

What does it mean to be Black and Christian? A Summons to National Dialogue, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1992

The African American Family and Church: Agenda for Sound Health, Education, and Economics, Baptist world Center, Nashville, Tn., 1991

The Mission and Ministry of the Church to the Family, Black Church Study Forum, East Chicago, IN, 1990

The Mission of the Black Church for the 21st Century, A Black Church Study Forum, Nashville, TN, April 1989

America in Search of a Soul, A Convocation Commemorating the Fortieth Anniversary of Jesus and The Disinherited, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tn., October 1989

Spirituality and Social Transformation: The Black Churches Response to Social Crisis, East Tennessee Black Church Study Forum, Knoxville, Tn., November 1989

The Religious Thought of Howard Thurman, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, Tn., 1989

The Religious Thought of Kelly Miller Smith, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN, October 1988

Professional Associations

American Academy of Religion

Society for the Study of Black Religion

Black Religious Scholars Group

Trans-Atlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)

Tennessee College Association

World Baptist Alliance

Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference

Awards and Honors:

Community Relations Award, Community Nashville, 2014

Distinguish Faculty Award, Vanderbilt University, 2013

OIC Community Achievement Award, 2007

Journalism Prize, Cash Award, Journal of Intergroup Relations, National Association of Human Rights Workers, Tampa, FL., 1995

Special Achievement Certificate Cash Award, United States Energy Research and Development Administration, Oak Ridge, TN, 1976

Benjamin E. Mays Fellow, Fund for Theological Education, Inc., 1979

Florence Conwell Prize in Preaching, Vanderbilt Divinity School, 1981

Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society, American Baptist College, 1979

Patton Brother Award for Highest Scholastic Average, American Baptist College, 1979

Luke/Act Prize, American Baptist College, 1979.

Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities,

Knoxville College, 1970

American Baptist College, 1979.

Board Appointments:

Congregational Health and Education Network, Board Co-Chair, 2017-

Dan and Margaret Charitable Fund, Board of Directors, 2014-
The Black Church Center for Justice & Equality, Advisory Council, 2016-
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc., Board of Directors, Chicago, Ill, 2011 -
World Baptist Alliance, Co-Chair, Human Rights Commission, 1996 –
Pastoral Center for Healing, Board of Directors, Nashville, Tn., 2010 –
Chicago Theological Seminary, Board of Trustees, Chicago, ILL, 2010 - 2017
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Board of Directors, 2012 –2016
American Red Cross, Board of Directors, Blood Donor Division, Nashville, Tn., 2010 –2013
Nashville Sports Authority, 1999 – 2006
Center for Non-Profit Management, Board of Directors, Nashville, Tn., 2006- 2008
Nashville Center for Black Family Life, Board of Directors, 1993 - 2000
National Advisory Board, United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, 1995 -97
National Advisory Board, Center for the Development of Ethical Leadership
Black Church Studies Program, Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1996 - 98
Rochester, NY.
Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, 1994 - 96

Community Organizations/Commissions

Equity, Community, Sustainability, Nashville Black Community Think, 2017 -
Sigma Pi Phi, Chi Boule, Sire Archon, 2015-
Citizens Around Table Commission, Tenn Care Health Commission, 1995 – 98
Executive Board Member, United Way of Middle TN, Executive Board Member, Nashville, TN., 1994 - 96
Tying Nashville Together, Founding Chair, Nashville, TN., 1991 – 98
Opportunities Industrialization Center, Board of Directors, Nashville, TN., 1993 - 96
Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship, President, Nash, TN., 1991 - 95
Nashville Conference of Christians and Jews, Advisory Board, 1991 - 94
Knoxville District Baptist Association, Christian Education Congress, President Knox, TN., 1983 -87
Oak Valley Development Council, Inc., President, 1979 – 88
NAACP, Life Member, Oak Ridge Branch, President, 1987 – 89

