

The Institute for
Justice Formation



John Leland Center for
Theological Studies

Critical Race Theory: Friend, Foe or Opportunity?

Seminar on Saturdays
Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13
10:00-12:00 noon



Dr. Henry Lee Allen is
Professor of Sociology at
Wheaton College, IL

Join us for this three-session seminar to explore the foundations, the debates and the implications of Critical Race Theory (CRT): a body of legal knowledge that analyzes the structural nature of racism in the U.S. Where does CRT come from? Is CRT a danger to Christian beliefs or does it help people of faith to fight racism? Are there positive, practical implications of CRT for the Church and its witness to the world?

We will be led by a team of experienced scholars, pastors, and educators who have worked with CRT in their own ministries. Dr. Hank Allen is a sociologist from Wheaton College that studies CRT and explores it as a resource for Christian communities. Dr. Jeff Willetts is a former dean of two theological schools, a scholar, and senior pastor of Parkwood Baptist Church who believes the Church can embrace all people. Dr. Denise Janssen is a professor of Christian education at the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology who uses multiple frameworks to shape teaching that is inclusive and empowerment. And Dr. Robert Wallace is senior pastor of McLean Baptist church who finds Scripture to be a liberating message for all people.



Dr. Denise Janssen is Associate
Professor of Christian
Education at the Samuel DeWitt
Proctor School of Theology,
VUU.



Dr. Willetts is Senior Pastor
at Parkwood Baptist Church,
Annandale, VA



Dr. Robert Wallace is the senior
pastor of McLean Baptist
Church, VA



**WASHINGTON
THEOLOGICAL
CONSORTIUM**
Crossroads of Faith, Learning and Dialogue

Sessions run from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on Saturdays.
Topics include:

October 30: Critical Race Theory: An Overview

November 6: CRT and Intersectionality

November 13: CRT and Christian Life as Witness

Sponsors: The Institute for Justice Formation at the John Leland Center, the Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and the Washington Theological Consortium

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<https://washtheocon.org/crt-seminars>

Our Speakers

Dr. Henry Lee (Hank) Allen has been active as a sociologist for nearly four decades at Bethel College, Calvin College (University), the University of Rochester (NY), the Rochester Institute of Technology, and Wheaton College (IL). He has taught courses in the sociology of education, science, and urban life and courses in criminology—including violence in minority communities, violence against women, and the sociology of hate. Dr. Allen's research includes studies of police shootings, race and ethnic relations, and the sociology of higher education. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago, as a Danforth Foundation Baccalaureate Fellow. Dr. Allen has been a consultant with a variety of organizations, including the National Education Association (1993-2018), the American Bible Society, the FBI Academy (2003-2011), and the African American Leadership Roundtable. He has been an active member of the International Sociological Association, with presentations in Japan, Vienna, Athens, and Toronto. In 2018, he received the Albert Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquis Who's Who. Dr. Allen has published over 40 scholarly articles that include the sociology of science in Canada, Israel, Scandinavia, and the United States, the scientific illiteracy in current public policies, and an article on the future of sociology for the Russian Academy of Sciences. Currently, he researches the interconnections between astrophysics, cybersecurity, biotechnology, and quantum computing—as a prelude to establishing the African American Institute for Advanced Scientific Research. He attended the global 2021 Nobel Prize Summit on April 26-28.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Willetts is Senior Pastor at Parkwood Baptist Church, Annandale, VA. He earned a B.A. in religion and philosophy, magna cum laude, from Campbell University in 1985. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in religion from Yale University and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Wales, Swansea. He was the founding Dean of the John Leland Center for theological studies, and he served recently as Dean of the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. He has served as editor of several theological journals and philosophical publications, is the author of numerous academic papers and presentations, and is active in the Baptist World Alliance, the Society for Philosophy of Religion, and the American Academy of Religion. His teaching and research interests are in philosophy and theology, spirituality and law enforcement, issues of diversity and race in theological education, and more. Dr. Willetts and his wife, the Rev. Elizabeth E. Willetts, are the parents of three adult children.

Rev. Dr. Denise Janssen is Associate Professor of Christian Education at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University. She is a graduate of the University of Sioux Falls (BA), Northern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (PhD). Her research focuses on faith transitions in life—particularly the transition from adolescence into young adulthood, and the use of ethnographic research as a primary tool of inquiry. She also designs, writes, and consults in the area of curriculum development and faith formation. Her 25+ years in youth ministry and pastoral ministry equip her well as a scholar-practitioner. Dr. Janssen's books include: *Fostering Faith: Teaching and Learning in the Christian Church* (Valley Forge: Judson, 2014), *Reclaimed: Faith in an Emerging Generation* (Valley Forge: Judson, 2015), and *Educating for Redemptive Community: Essays in Honor of Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain* (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015). An ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches, USA, Janssen maintains a commitment to the local church and denominational life. In 2015, the denomination recognized her with the Luther Wesley Smith Education Award for faithful leadership in educational ministries. She currently serves as a staff pastor at Laurel Park United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Robert Wallace is the senior pastor of McLean Baptist Church (VA). While finishing his Ph.D. at Baylor University, he was ordained at First Baptist Church of Waco, Texas, and he worked as a full-time pastor for several years. Robert spent over 20 years as Professor of Biblical Studies striving to bridge the gap between the academy and the church. He has a deep love of the Psalms, and much of his academic research has focused on that area. He currently is finishing a book with Baker Academic Publishing provisionally titled, "Reading the Old Testament Through the Psalms." The book brings together a number of Robert's passions by using the Psalms as the entry point to making the rest of the Old Testament accessible to a Christian audience. It is his deepest conviction that grace of God provides humanity the opportunity to live creatively and meaningfully in this world, and that this message is found throughout Scripture—from Genesis to Revelation. His wife, Cindy, is also an ordained minister and is a board-certified chaplain, and they have two sons.