

## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Faculties' Convocation: Anti-Racist Theology and Teaching October 5, 2020, 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm

The Academic Deans of the Washington Theological Consortium Schools invite all faculty members and program directors of WTC members to join this Virtual Faculties' Convocation. In this time of racial reckoning, the topic is vital for our schools and faith communities.



"Toward Anti-Racist Theology and Practice: Transforming our Teaching"

Virtual Event with Dr. Eric Williams Curator of Religion at the National Museum for African American History and Culture



Response from Dr. Denise Janssen

Associate Professor of Christian Education at the Samuel DeWitt

Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University

The presentation and response will offer ways to reimagine theological formation and will explore issues of pedagogy and student engagement that create more equitable learning environments.

The evening will include Q & A from respondent and participants, a welcome to new faculty members, and breakout sessions for **Faculty Interest Groups** to discuss ways to follow up on this theme. Participants **must pre-register for the event by October 4** and a webinar link will be sent to them via separate email.

REGISTER HERE: <a href="https://washtheocon.org/events">https://washtheocon.org/events</a>

## BIOGRAPHY OF Dr. ERIC LEWIS WILLIAMS

Dr. Williams is the Curator of Religion for the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Dr. Williams has taught history, religion and African-American studies at several institutions across the country. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, an MDiv from Duke University, an MA from McCormick Theological Seminary, and a Bachelors from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Williams has taught theology, history and African American Studies at Western Theological Seminary; Ashland Theological Seminary (Detroit); Iowa State University; Shaw University; Boston College; and Harvard University. His current research examines the meanings of religion within Africana histories and cultures and the role and influences of African religions in the Atlantic world. Williams is a co-editor of the T&T Clark Handbook of African American Theology and is currently completing a manuscript which explores theological significations in African American Pentecostal thought. Williams' research and studies have taken him around the world. He considers himself a transatlantic commuter, a collector of words and an emergent jazz-man in the world of ideas. He is an ordained minister of the Church of God in Christ. Being deeply committed to both the life of the mind and the life of the Spirit, Williams desires to utilize his faith and learning to serve the church, the academy, and the broader society.

## BIOGRAPHY OF DR. DENISE JANSSEN

Dr. Janssen is a Christian educator, author, and scholar presently serving as Associate Professor of Christian Education at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Her research focuses on faith transitions in life, particularly the transition from adolescence into young adulthood, using ethnographic research as a primary tool of inquiry. She also designs, writes, and consults in the area of curriculum development and best practices in faith formation in communities of faith. Her 30+ years in youth and pastoral ministry equip her well as a scholar-practitioner with a passion for student learning. Dr. Janssen brought her research to reality, creating the STREAM Youth Theology Institute at the School of Theology, funded by a grant she wrote to the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Her 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), Educating for Redemptive Community: Essays in Honor of Jack Seymour and Margaret Ann Crain (Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2015), and United Against Racism Facilitator's Guide (Washington: Friendship Press, 2018). She is also the author of numerous articles and curriculum resources, and two forthcoming books. Dr. Janssen is editorial director for Friendship Press, the publishing arm of the National Council of Churches.



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