

Program Sponsors

These programs are sponsored jointly by the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and Metropolitan AME Church which are two of the oldest and most historic churches in Washington, DC. Both churches have had an active presence at their downtown locations for more than 150 years.

The funding is provided by the McClendon Scholar in Residence Program of New York Ave. Presbyterian Church. Established in 2006, the program reflects the vision and generosity of the late Rev. Dr. Jack E. McClendon, Associate Pastor of The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church from 1957 to 1991. Dr. McClendon blended faith and politics throughout his powerful ministry, marching with Dr. Martin Luther King in Selma, Alabama and leading the church in advocating for the poor and homeless in the nation's capital.

The Scholar in Residence Program enables The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to offer the wider Washington community noted scholars such as Dr. Willie Jennings whose unique gifts, knowledge, and lives inspire both ongoing reflection and action for social justice. Our scholars have previously included notables such as Walter Brueggemann, Frances Taylor Gench, Ronald C. White, Susan Thistlethwaite, James Cone, Taylor Branch, Harold Dean Trulear and Bryan Stevenson. In addition, the McClendon Program has sponsored an Initiative on Race and Class in Washington that has brought together several congregations – some predominantly white and some predominately African-American – for common worship, reading, conversation and celebration.

Building Life Together: Conversations on Race and Faith in Washington, DC

Racism has been called “America’s original sin” and, while we have made great progress, the legacy of our racist past still has a strong impact on our society. The purpose of this weekend is to reflect on race relations in our metropolitan area and what churches – and individual Christians of different races – can do to overcome racial barriers that still exist and build a better future together.

It is fitting that this program about race and faith in Washington, DC be jointly sponsored by The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. Both congregations have been deeply involved in discussions about Christianity and race relations since the time of the Civil War. Indeed, the two dominant figures of the mid-19th century debate about race in America worshiped at these churches – Abraham Lincoln at New York Avenue Presbyterian and Frederick Douglass at Metropolitan A.M.E. This weekend with Dr. Willie Jennings will provide an opportunity to both look back at where we have been and forward to where we might go together

Some of the questions we will discuss during the weekend are:

- How did Christianity, a religion premised upon neighborly love, become so closely identified with racial segregation and oppression?
- How has our history shaped the racial geography of Washington, DC and what reconfigurations are possible that might promote a more just society?
- What is necessary for us to have the honest conversations on race that are needed to move us forward?
- What are some ways that members of predominantly African-American and predominantly white churches in the Washington metropolitan area can work together more effectively?

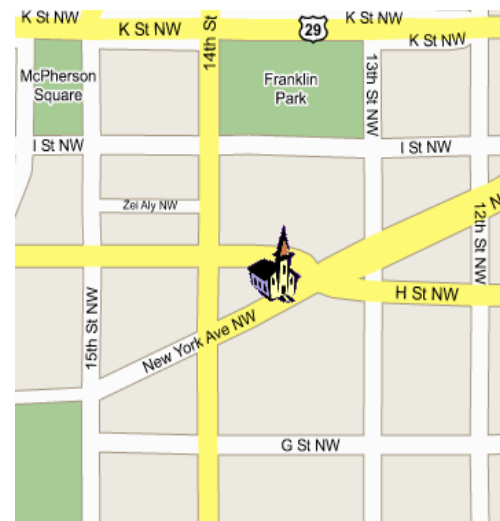
Parking/Metro Guidance

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

On Saturday, free parking is available for those attending the program at Green City Parking on H Street, between 12th and 13th.

On Sunday, street parking is free and the garage at 1399 New York Avenue is also free.

The church is also just blocks from the McPherson Square Stop on the Orange/Blue Lines and the Metro Center Stop on the Red, Orange/Blue Lines.



Metropolitan AME Church

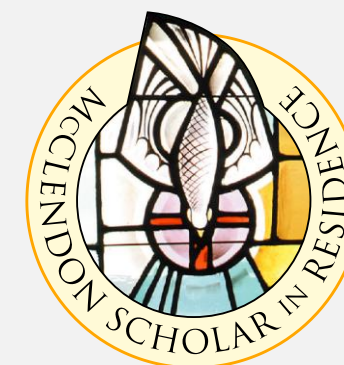
Free parking is available for Sunday worship services at the NEA Parking Garage directly across the street from the church at 1519 M Street NW.

The church is also just blocks from the McPherson Square stop on the Orange/Blue Lines and Farragut North on the Red Line.

A Weekend With

Dr. Willie Jennings

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University Divinity School



Building Life Together: Conversations on Race and Faith in Washington, DC

Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2016

Sponsored Jointly By

Metropolitan A.M.E. Church
1518 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

and

The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

From, *The Christian Imagination*,
By Willie Jennings

“The Christian theological imagination was woven into processes of colonial dominance. Other people and their ways of life had to adapt, become fluid, even morph into the colonial order of things, and such a situation drew Christianity and its theologians inside habits of mind and life that internalized and normalized that order of things.

Adaptability, fluidity, formation, and reformation of being were heavily weighted on the side of indigenous people as their requirement for survival. As Christianity developed both in the old world of Europe and in the new worlds of the Americas, Asia, and Africa, it was no longer able to feel this tragic imbalance, Indeed, it is as though Christianity, wherever it went in the modern colonies, inverted its sense of hospitality. It claimed to be the host, the owner of the spaces it entered, and demanded native peoples enter its cultural logics, its ways of being in the world, and its conceptualities. . .

The intimacy that marks Christian history is a painful one, one in which the joining often meant oppression, violence, and death, if not of bodies then most certainly of ways of life, forms of language, and visions of the world. What happened to the original trajectory of intimacy...and why have Christians been so unable to enter fully into this marvelous gift given by God’s Son to the world?”

The Reverend
Dr. Willie James Jennings



Dr. Jennings was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dr. Jennings received his B.A. in Religion and Theological Studies from Calvin College (1984), his M.Div (Master of Divinity degree) from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and his Ph.D. from Duke University. Dr. Jennings is a systematic theologian who teaches in the areas of theology, black church and Africana studies, as well as post-colonial and race theology. The author of numerous articles, Dr. Jennings’s recent work, *The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race*, published by Yale University Press, won the 2011 American Academy of Religion award for best book. Dr. Jennings is also the recipient of the 2015 Grawemeyer Award in Religion for his groundbreaking work on race and Christianity.

In addition to being a frequent lecturer at colleges, universities, and seminaries, Dr. Jennings is also a regular workshop leader at pastor conferences. He is also a consultant for the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, and for the Association of Theological Schools. Recently, Dr. Jennings completed a commentary on the Books of Acts which will be published by Westminster/John Knox later this year.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, April 30, 2016

“Race, Faith and Place: Understanding our Racial Geography” from 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Presentation by Dr. Jennings and small group discussions in Peter Marshall Hall at The New York Ave. Presbyterian Church. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be available at 9:30 AM.

Child care will be provided.

“Luncheon Conversation: Reshaping our Racial Geography” from 12:30-1:30 PM

A free lunch will be served for those who can stay to continue the discussion with Dr. Jennings.

RSVP requested for Saturday morning program
www.april30jennings.eventbrite.com

Sunday, May 1, 2016

“A Revolutionary Life Together” at 7:45 AM

Dr. Willie Jennings, Preaching
Metropolitan AME Church
1518 M Street NW

“A Revolutionary Life Together” 11:00 AM
Dr. Willie Jennings, Preaching
The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church

Refreshments and Closing Conversation at 12:15-1:00 PM

The Radcliffe Room
The New York Ave. Presbyterian Church

All Are Welcome!



RSVP NOW

www.april30jennings.eventbrite.com