

*The Program of Black Church Studies and  
The Gene Bennett Program for Life Long Learning*



*The Thurman King School  
of  
Black Church Leadership*



COLGATE  
ROCHESTER-CROZER  
*Divinity School*



## *The Thurman King School of Black Church Leadership*

The Thurman King School of Black Church Leadership is sponsored by the Program of Black Church Studies and the Gene Bennett Program for Life Long Learning at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS). The director of the school is The Rev. Dr. James H. Evans Jr., Robert K. Davies Professor of Systematic Theology at CRCDS. The Thurman King School continues the tradition of engagement of the Divinity School with the black church community that began with the Alternate Education Program and the Pearl Program. The Thurman King School, taking advantage of the most recent African American religious scholarship and contemporary developments in Black church life, is designed to provide current pastors and other clergy/leaders with the resources to enhance their ministry. The course offerings include solid and relevant biblical, theological and practical studies, as well as studies which are focused on the ministry challenges which are unique to African American Christian communities. The courses are taught by Divinity School faculty supplemented by faculty and experts from other academic and ecclesial institutions. The goal of the Thurman King School is to prepare transformative leaders for the Black church and beyond. Those who take the full three year course cycle will be awarded a diploma by CRCDS at Commencement in May of the third year of the program and will be granted 9 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) per year for satisfactory participation. The fulfillment of specific denominational requirements for ministry may require additional formation activities such as Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), field education or supervised ministry.

The program meets one weekend per month, beginning September 17–18, 2010. Sessions run from 7 PM on Friday evening until 5 PM on Saturday. The classes will meet at the Notre Dame Retreat Center, 5151 Foster Road, Canandaigua, New York. Room with breakfast and lunch on Saturday is included in the tuition.

For further information contact The Rev. Dr. Gay L. Byron, Interim Dean, Program of Black Church Studies at (585) 340-9591, [gbyron@crcds.edu](mailto:gbyron@crcds.edu). For an application contact GP Dickerson-Hanks at (585) 340-9651, [gdickerson-hanks@crcds.edu](mailto:gdickerson-hanks@crcds.edu), or you may download an application from our website at [www.crcds.edu](http://www.crcds.edu).



## Three Year Course Cycle

Each year, the educational weekends will cover material in four areas of practical concentrations:

- 1—Foundational Texts
- 2—Engaged Ministry: Personal, Professional and Pastoral Development
- 3—Worship and Liturgy
- 4—The Church Encounters the World

## Year One

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### *Weekend One—Foundational Texts—Scripture: The Gospels*

This course is designed to introduce the four canonical gospels and to explore how these early Christian gospels were generated and circulated before being written down by different faith communities. Throughout the course we will critically examine the literary, historical, social, cultural, political, and religious contexts of each gospel so that the distinctive voices of the gospel writers can be heard.

### *Weekend Two—Foundational Texts—Scripture: Genesis and Exodus*

This course offers a close reading of the first two books of the Christian Old Testament. Genesis and Exodus contain the key narratives of creation, flood, the call of Abraham, and the escape from Egypt via the Red Sea. They shall be read in their historical context as literature from the ancient Near East before their context as scripture is addressed.

### *Weekend Three—Worship:*

#### Introduction to African American Christian Worship

This course will introduce students to the history of African American Christian worship focusing on the development of black worship styles in Africa, in slave communities, and in the early African American church. Distinct occasions for worship; i.e. baptisms, funerals, and public exhortations will be examined. Differences in worship traditions among the African American denominations will also be discussed.

### *Weekend Four—Worship:*

#### Introduction to Preaching in the African American Tradition

What is the genius of African American preaching? How is Scripture and experience imaginatively engaged? What makes this preaching effective? Exploring these questions, the course will address sermon construction and delivery. Attention will be given to the varied contexts of preaching, preaching as “urgent utterance” and to the works of selected preachers as examples of this tradition.



### *Weekend Five & Six—The Church Encounters the World:*

Introduction to Christian Theology: Parts One & Two

This course, in two weekends, provides a brief overview of the discipline of systematic theology, introducing basic themes such as God, Christ, Holy Spirit, sin, creation, salvation, grace, the kingdom of God and the Church. The course will also explore how scripture, tradition, reason, and praxis have influenced the development of these basic theological themes.

### *Weekend Seven—Engaged Ministry:*

Managing Change and Conflict in Congregational Life

This course will introduce students to contemporary theory on leading congregations through change and transition and provide practical, hands-on strategies for negotiating the challenges of ministering to congregations facing change and conflict, with particular focus on how to maintain boundaries and self care in the midst of conflict and transition.

### *Weekend Eight—The Church Encounters the World:*

Leading Emerging and Missional Churches in the 21st Century

Church planting and innovative ways of leading “non-traditional” church organizations and missions. An introduction to the Emerging Church phenomenon and other “new ways of being church” in the 21st Century.

### *Weekend Nine—The Church Encounters the World:*

Stewardship and Financial Administration

This course will introduce students to appropriate business and accounting practices for church administration. It will also cover stewardship and how churches are finding creative ways to finance ministry.

## *Year Two*

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### *Weekend One —Foundational Texts—Scripture:*

Prophets and Wisdom Traditions of the Hebrew Scriptures

This course provides an overview of two major categories of literature in the Christian Old Testament. The student will i) learn to recognize key prophetic genres to make this considerable but not always easy collection of texts a little more accessible, and ii) learn to identify the distinct world view of biblical wisdom literature.

### *Weekend Two—Foundational Texts—Scripture:*

Paul and the Pauline Tradition

This course will introduce the students to the Apostle Paul and the three generations of Pauline literature found in the New Testament. The students will examine Paul’s theology and ethics, and the Hellenistic and Jewish influences that informed his letters. In addition to this, the



students will have an opportunity to learn more about the literary and rhetorical conventions that shaped Paul's writings and the implications of this material for contemporary Christian leadership and ministry.

*Weekend Three—The Church Encounters the World:*

The Church Encounters Multi Cultural Diversity

This theology course provides a basic introduction to liberation theology, feminist theology and other theologies that emerge from a variety of cultural contexts and conflicts in various parts of the world.

*Weekend Four—The Church Encounters the World:*

The Modern Church (Church History)

This introductory course will cover church history from the period of the Reformation to the present day, focusing on the various European reformations and their trajectory in American religious history.

*Weekend Five—Worship: Preaching through the Liturgical Year*

This course will introduce students to the demands of preaching in various liturgical seasons, using the Revised Common Lectionary or a lectionary of their own choosing.

**Episcopal Diaconal Candidates:** *Diakonia and the Diaconate*

This course will examine the history of the diaconal order and study the theology of diaconal ministry. We will explore what is unique about the diaconate and what diaconal ministry means in the Episcopal Church of the 21st Century.

*Weekend Six—Worship:*

Introduction to Liturgy in Denominational Groups

A basic introduction to the worship traditions of each denomination. Students will become familiar with the prayer books, books of worship or order within their own traditions and with the musical resources available in their denomination.

*Weekend Seven—Engaged Ministry:*

Pastoral Care in African American Congregational Life

This course focuses on the most common emotional and spiritual issues that African American pastors are likely to encounter as they lead and/or minister to African American congregations. These include, but are not limited to, family crises, addiction, substance abuse, incarceration, and health issues.

*Weekend Eight—Engaged Ministry: Education, Discipleship, and Spiritual Formation in the African American Church*

This course will focus on the role of Christian education in the development of disciples in the African American church. We will also examine the role of continuing and life long learning in spiritual formation.



### *Weekend Nine—The Church Encounters the World:*

#### Applied Ethics and Moral Theology

This course attends to the classical traditions of ethical thinking as well as contemporary ethical reflection on significant issues facing the church and the world in the 21st Century.

## *Year Three*

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### *Weekend One—Foundational Texts: Apocalyptic Literature in Hebrew Scriptures and The Book of Revelation*

This course will equip students to recognize and engage those religious and political movements in our contemporary culture that operate out of an apocalyptic world view, from Christians who believe in the rapture, to “extremists” of various religious traditions.

### *Weekend Two—The Church Encounters the World:*

#### Theologies of the Religions and Comparative Theology

This course will introduce students to the various theological responses within the Christian tradition to the existence of other world religions. It will encourage students to articulate their own theological position and to reflect on how they will live into that theological stance from the pulpit, in pastoral encounters and in community ministries.

### *Weekend Three—The Church Encounters the World:*

#### African American Denominational Church History

This course will compare and contrast the histories of the major African American denominations focusing on the denominations represented in the class. Both the European and American roots of these groups will be explored.

### *Weekend Four —The Church Encounters the World:*

#### Introduction to World Religions and Interfaith Dialogue

This course will prepare students to engage in ministry in this pluralistic and multicultural society. They will learn the basics about the beliefs and practices of major world religions and the fundamental principles of respectful interfaith dialogue.

### *Weekend Five—Worship—Preaching for Pastoral Occasions in the African American Church: Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms*

This course will prepare students to preach effectively and authentically at the critical pastoral events in the lives of African American congregants.



*Weekend Six—Worship—Pastoral Leadership: Nurturing New and Experienced Leaders in the African American Church*

This course will address the task of developing and nurturing leaders within the African American congregation. The mentoring of associate ministers, deacons, trustees, auxiliary heads and other leadership positions with the church will be discussed.

*Weekend Seven—The Church Encounters the World:*

*Telling the Church's Stories: Early and Medieval Church History*

A brief survey of the history of Christianity from its inception through the Middle Ages up to the time of the Reformations. Attention will be given to major persons and movements as well as major doctrinal controversies.

*Weekend Eight—Engaged Ministry:*

*The African American Church in the Public Square*

This course will address the many ways that the African American church has been and continues to be involved in public life. We will examine the role of the church in community organizing, social advocacy, grant writing, urban planning, and entrepreneurial development. We will discuss the strategic role of the African American church in the life of the African American community in particular, as well as in the community as a whole.

*Weekend Nine—Foundational Texts: Denominational Polity*

In denominational groups students will study their denomination's legal and canonical documents, confessions, laws, regulations, ethical codes and responsibilities.

*Tuition:*

\$1500 per year which includes housing and food at Notre Dame Retreat Center for the 9 program weekends.

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