

RE-IMAGINING MINISTRY: TO SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE



Interdenominational Theological Center

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Rev. Matthew Wesley Williams, President

Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton, Chair- Board of Trustees

FRAMING OUR DIALOGUE

- Organizing Question
- Dimensions of Black Pastoral Leadership
- Participatory Process

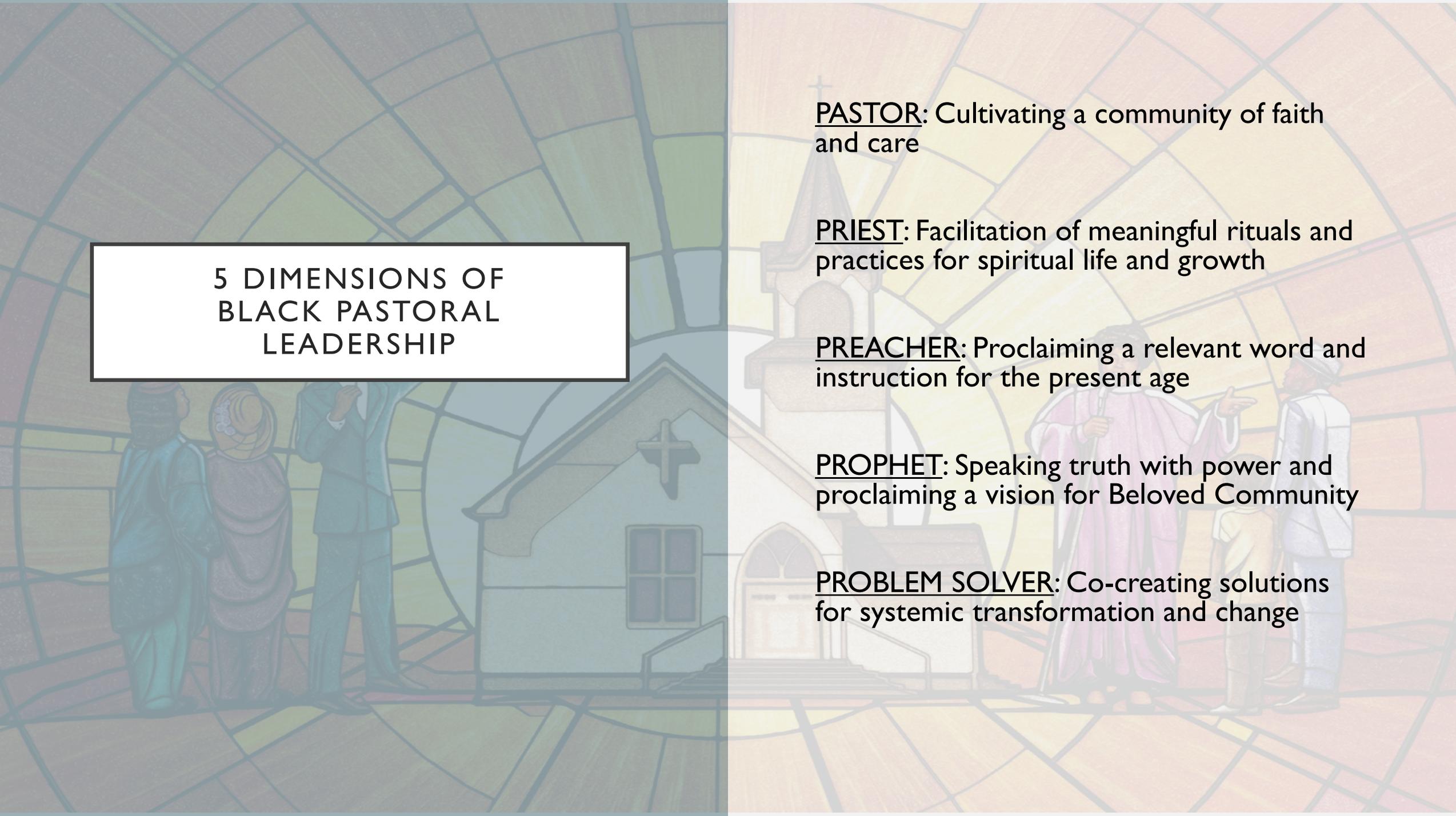
COMBATting THEOLOGICAL
MISEDUCATION

Now, theological miseducation is
not solely a content problem.
It is also a competency problem.

Carter G. Woodson

The Mis-Education of the Negro (1933)

“In schools of theology Negroes are taught the interpretation of the Bible worked out by those who have justified segregation and winked at economic debasement of the Negro sometimes almost to the point of starvation. Deriving their sense of right from this teaching, graduates of such schools have no messages to grip the people whom they have been ill-trained to serve.”

The background is a large, stylized stained glass window. The left side features a church building with a cross on its roof and a window. In front of the church, three people are depicted: a man in a suit, a woman in a headscarf, and another man. The right side shows a church interior with a pulpit and a person in purple vestments. The overall color palette is muted, with greens, blues, and purples on the left, and warm yellows and oranges on the right.

5 DIMENSIONS OF BLACK PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

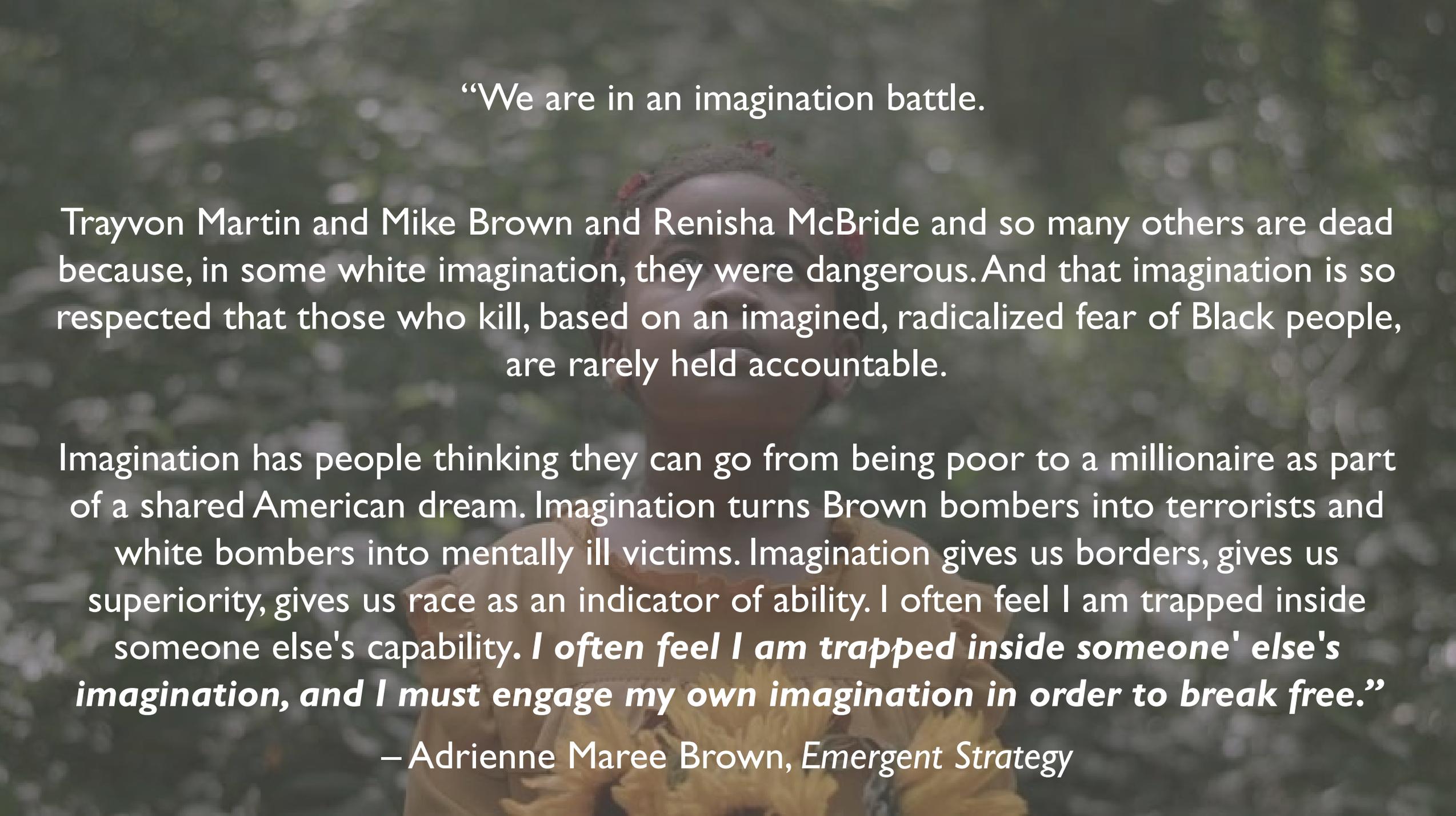
PASTOR: Cultivating a community of faith and care

PRIEST: Facilitation of meaningful rituals and practices for spiritual life and growth

PREACHER: Proclaiming a relevant word and instruction for the present age

PROPHET: Speaking truth with power and proclaiming a vision for Beloved Community

PROBLEM SOLVER: Co-creating solutions for systemic transformation and change



“We are in an imagination battle.

Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown and Renisha McBride and so many others are dead because, in some white imagination, they were dangerous. And that imagination is so respected that those who kill, based on an imagined, radicalized fear of Black people, are rarely held accountable.

Imagination has people thinking they can go from being poor to a millionaire as part of a shared American dream. Imagination turns Brown bombers into terrorists and white bombers into mentally ill victims. Imagination gives us borders, gives us superiority, gives us race as an indicator of ability. I often feel I am trapped inside someone else's capability. ***I often feel I am trapped inside someone' else's imagination, and I must engage my own imagination in order to break free.***”

– Adrienne Maree Brown, *Emergent Strategy*

**ITC PASTORAL
LEADERSHIP PANEL**

ITC PANELISTS

Rev. Nathalie Nelson Parker | Principal, Civitas Consulting Group

Rev. Leon Parker | Asst. Professor and Dean of College and Community Life | Miles College

Rev. Dr. Susan Hillary Buckson | Senior Pastor | Allen Temple AME Church | Atlanta, GA

Elder Carl E. Patten II | Cathedral of Faith COGIC | Atlanta, GA

Rev. Dr. Cedrick Von Jackson | Senior Pastor | West Hunter Street Baptist Church | Atlanta, GA



ROUND I

Describe your ministry work and setting. How does one or more of these 5 dimensions show up in your ministry?

ROUND 2

Consider the key competencies required to for your work and ministry. What did your theological education prepare you to do well? What did your theological education (not) prepare you to do?

What experiences were helpful (or could have been helpful) in building your capacity to do ministry in your setting?

ROUND 3

Given what you know now about what leadership and ministry requires, describe your dream for the kind of Black theological education that effectively prepares the kind of leadership our churches and communities need now.