

Session Description for
Black Church Gift Collaborative Institute
Tuesday April 26, 2022
1:00pm-5:00pm
Interdenominational Theological Center
Facilitators: Bishop Teresa Jefferson-Snorton &
President Matthew Wesley Williams

Summary:

In the field of Pastoral Theology, the role of the minister is often described as having four distinct functions: Pastor, Priest, Preacher, and Prophet. This session invites historically Black theological schools to explore the institutional requirements and curricular needs for effective ministry preparation and leadership formation for the peculiar work of pastoral leadership in Black church and broader community. This exploration adds to the four functions above a fifth important function of ministry in the Black church, problem solver. It reimagines these functions as five dimensions of one role for which black theological education must prepare emerging leaders.

Dimensions of Black Pastoral leadership:

PASTOR: Cultivating a community of faith and care

PRIEST: Facilitating culturally-relevant 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

Session Description

This four-hour session will be a participatory process in which participants reflect, dialogue and generate new insights around the following questions:

If ministry in the Black church requires these five dimensions...

- ***Defining Formation.*** *What does formation for this leadership role look like, given the challenges and opportunities our churches and communities now face?*
- ***Institutional Requirements.*** *What does this type of formation require?*
 - o *of the institution?*

- *of the student?*
- *of the curriculum/pedagogy?*
- **Leadership Profile and Needs.** *How are we imagining the profile of the leaders we are cultivating? Who's showing up to our institutions and what are they seeking to accomplish?*
- **Naming our Institutional Gifts and Opportunities.** *Each of our institutions is uniquely gifted and positioned. Considering the 5 ministerial roles, what unique gifts does our institution offer to the formation of the kind of leaders our communities need now?*
 - *In your current curriculum/design? Reimagined curriculum/design?*
 - *Think beyond program, courses, what else? Partnerships? Location? Tradition? Resources?*

Panelists/ Small Group Facilitators:

[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