

Hood Theological Seminary
International Center for Faith, Science and History
January 2021 Collaborative Project with HTS- UTCWI

“Science, Faith and Healing in the History of Christianity and African Diasporic Religion”

Convener: Dr. Sharon J. Grant
Project Activity: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Zoom Lectures, and Congregation/Communal Visit
Email: sgrant@hoodseminary.edu

LECTURERS (Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m.)

DAY 1: Dr. Sharon Grant, Church Historian, Founding Director, ICFSH at HTS
 DAY 2: Dr. Oral Thomas, Caribbean Theologian and President, UTCWI
 DAY 3: Dr. Sonia Copeland, M.D. Public Health Scholar
 DAY 4: Dr. Sylvia Mitchell, Ethnobotanist, UWI
 DAY 5: Mr. Roy Billings, Environmental Scientist

PANELISTS: (Thursday, January 14, 7:00 p.m.)

Dr. LaTonya Thorpe, Key Presentation

Rev. Newton Dixon, President of Jamaican Council of Churches
 Bishop Lazree Davis, Overseer and Founder of Valley of Light Ministries
 Rev. Tanya Ferrill. Itinerant Elder/Pastor

Project Description

This project is designed to integrate scientific theory and theological inquiry to explore humanity’s universal quest for healing and well-being. This interdisciplinary approach will occur in a cultural setting outside of the North American context. Guest lecturers who are experts in science, theology will engage the students with content that probes the fecundity of interconnectivity at the nexus of science, faith and healing in the life of the non-Western Christian church.

Teaching Methods

Teaching methodology will include a selective use of media resources (i.e., videos, podcasts, virtual tours), guest lectures, readings, and dialogue.

Primary Text

Porterfield, Amanda. *Healing in the History of Christianity*. Oxford Press, 2005.

Pre-Work: View Recording of ICFSH 2020 Fall Conference and Scientist Spotlight

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/HYemM552PaQOV4PN6B8M3zrvRERvJ1v67hvgeeoRp6IgK8gj-5K3Avc56j_XfD08A.OO4dIP23pavKHKEj?startTime=1602855637000

Project Evaluation

This project aims to be an interactive virtual engagement experience. Lecturers, Panelists, ICFSH Advisory board members, Hood students and Community stakeholders will be invited to participate in a subsequent podcast after viewing project content. The podcast will feature dialogue around three significant questions the project addressed. The date of the podcast has not been set.

GRANT DELIVERABLES: Five lectures, One panel, One podcast, 2 Videos of popular religious communities and interviews with their leaders

Lecturers

- **Rahmah A. Abdulaleem, Esq.**
Executive Director, KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights
- **The Honorable Suzan Johnson Cook**
U.S. Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom
- **Sabrina Dent, DMin.**
Senior Faith Adviser Americans United for Separation of Church and State
- **Dr. Sharon Grant, Phd.**
Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity, Hood Seminary
- **Rev. William Lamar, MDiv.**
Pastor, Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington DC
- **Dr. Teresa Smallwood, Phd.**
Associate Director Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative,
Vanderbilt Divinity School
- **Charles Watson, MDiv.**
Associate Director of Education, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty,
- **Eric Lewis Williams, Phd.**
Curator of Religion Smithsonian National Museum of African American History
& Culture, and Visiting Lecturer of Theology and History
The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology

Lecture Schedule Each Day - 10:00 a.m.

January 11 Introduction to ICFSH Collaborative Project
 Dr. Sharon Grant, HTS – 10:00 a.m.
 “Science, Faith and Healing in the History of Christianity and African Diasporic Religions”

January 12 Caribbean Theology and Healing
 Dr. Oral Thomas, UTCWI – 10:00 a.m.

Lecture Title TBA _____

January 13 Public Health, Religion and Communal Wellbeing
 Dr. Sonia Copeland, NCU/MOH (retired) - 10:00 a.m.

Lecture title TBA _____

January 14 Ethnobotany and Significance for Local Healing Practices
 Dr. Sylvia Mitchell, UWI

Lecture title TBA _____

EVENING PANEL: Dr. LaTonya Thorpe, Key Presenter

January 15 Lecture Title?
 Mr. Roy Billings,

Lecture Title TBA _____