

# RESUME OF

## ALTHEA SPENCER MILLER

Tel. #: 973-408-3281

Email: [aspencer@drew.edu](mailto:aspencer@drew.edu)

### **EDUCATION**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| January 2008  | Doctoral Degree Granted   |
| April 24, 2007  | Dissertation successfully defended. Dissertation Title:<br><i>ORALITY AND THE NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, THE HOMERIC EPICS, GRECO-ROMAN NOVELS AND GRECO-ROMAN HISTORIOGRAPHY: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH.</i> |
| Dissertation Committee: Dennis MacDonald, Chair, Karen Torjesen, Erin Runions |   |
| 1995  | Ph.D. Candidate, School of Religion, Claremont Graduate University.   |
| 1990  | Master of Theology, Candler School of Theology Atlanta, GA.   |
| 1981  | Bachelor of Arts Theology Lower Second Honours (Cum Laude), University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.   |
| 1981  | Diploma in Ministerial Studies, United Theological College of the West Indies, Kingston Jamaica.  |

### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

#### **BIBLICAL STUDIES**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Christian Scriptures</b> | Acts of the Apostles, Canonical Gospels, Pauline Literature, History of Criticism, Textual Criticism, Historical Criticism, Narrative Criticism, Pseudepigrapha, Extra-Canonical Writings, Apocryphal Acts. |
| <b>Hebrew Bible</b>         | History of Criticism, Survey of Jewish Canonical and Apocryphal Literature.   |
| <b>Biblical Theology</b>    | Bible and Culture, Liberation Theology: Caribbean, Feminist, Latin American, Womanist.  |
| <b>Other Academic</b>       | Africana Hermeneutics, Africana and Diaspora Studies, Feminist Pedagogy, Orality Theory, Postcolonial theory, Greco-Roman Historiography, Greco-Roman and Global Mythology, Women and Religion.             |

#### **RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Ancient Languages</b> | Aramaic, Coptic, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin |
| <b>Modern Languages</b>  | French, German, Spanish.                  |

## **NON-ACADEMIC SKILLS**

**Computer Skills** Microsoft Office, World Wide Web, Web Search, Global Information Systems, Webinars, Online Teaching, “Moodle,”

## **AWARDS & GRANTS**

2017 – 2018 Participant in Wabash Peer Group Grant  
2010 and 2012 Center for Christianities in Global Contexts Faculty Grant  
2010 Wabash Summer Research Grant  
2009 Wabash Grant for Pre-Tenure Workshop for Faculty of African Descent  
1995 Scholarship, Board of Global Ministries United Methodist Church  
1994 – 1995 Humanities Fellow, Claremont Graduate University  
1991 – 1995 PEO International Peace Scholarship  
1990 – 1992 Tuition Grant, Claremont Graduate University  
1989 – 1990 Tuition Scholarship, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE, COURSES DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT**

2008 to Present

### **DOCTORAL COURSES**

- “Africana Studies and Religion,” (Co-teach with Dr. Kenneth Ngwa).
- “Biblical Themes in Martin Luther King and Howard Thurman,”
- “Exegesis: Trends in Interpreting Paul,”
- “Psychological and Biblical Metaphors for Psychological and Congregational Health (Co-teach with Dr. Virginia Samuel).”
- Synoptic Gospels: Matthew

MASTERS COURSES:

- “Many Acts of the Apostles: Canonical and Apocryphal Acts,”
- “New Testament Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew,”
- “African American, African, and Caribbean Biblical Interpretation,”
- “The New Testament Through Non-Western Eyes: Africana Biblical Hermeneutics”
- “Studies in Pauline Literature: The Letters of Paul,”
- “Trends in Interpreting Paul”
- “Myth and Society in the Acts of the Apostles,”

- “Bible and Holocaust,” (Co-taught with Dr. Dana Nolan Fewell
- “Warriors, Wives, and Wenches: Women in Antiquity”
- “African American Visionaries and the Bible”
- “To the Cross, From the Cross: Memories of Jesus”

Serving on Dissertation and Master Theses Committees

Serving as reader on STM Extended Papers

2008 Fall to Present	Assistant Professor of New Testament, Drew University, The Theological School/Graduate Division of Religion
2008 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, California State University, Northridge: Courses Taught: “Women and Religion.”
2007 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College: Courses taught: “Myth in Contemporary and Classical Religious Traditions,” “Warriors, Wives, and Wenches: Women in Antiquity,” and “Interpreting Jesus: Gendered and Global Perspectives.”
2006 Fall	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College: Courses taught: “Feminist Interpretations of the Bible,” and “The Pauline Tradition.”
2006 Spring	Visiting Lecturer, Pomona College. Courses taught: “Biblical Heritage,” and “Myth in Contemporary and Classical Religious Traditions.” Visiting Lecturer, Whittier College. Courses taught: “Introduction to Judaism,” and “Judaism, Christianity and Islam.”
2005 Fall	Visiting Lecturer, Scripps College. Courses taught: Feminist Interpretations of the Bible.
2004 – 2005	Visiting Lecturer, Pomona College. Courses taught: “Intermediate Biblical Hebrew,” “Biblical Heritage,” “Myth in Contemporary and Classical Religious Traditions,” “Women, Wives and Wenches in Classical Antiquity,” “Supernatural Communications in the Acts of the Apostles and Greco-Roman Literature,” and Senior Thesis Reader.
2001 – 2003	Adjunct Faculty, Scripps College. Courses taught: “Feminist Introduction to the Bible” and “Feminist Perspectives on the Gospels.” Influenced students to be Religious Studies majors.
1996 Spring	Part-time Lecturer, United Theological College of the West Indies. Course: “Introduction to the New Testament.”

- 1995 Spring Adjunct Faculty, San Francisco Theological Seminary.  
Course taught: "Introduction to the New Testament."
- 1994 Fall Adjunct Faculty, School of Theology at Claremont. Course  
taught: "Introduction to the New Testament."

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- Spencer Miller, Althea. "Looking Forward from the Horizon: A Response in Africana Sisterhood and Solidarity." in Gay L. Byron and Vanessa Lovelace, eds. *Womanist Interpretations of the Bible: Expanding the Discourse* Atlanta, Georgia: SBL Press, 2016.
- Spencer Miller, Althea. "Creolizing Hermeneutics: A Caribbean Invitation". in *Islands, Islanders, and the Bible: Ruminations*, Jione Havea, Margaret Aymer and Steed Vernyl Davidson, eds. Atlanta, Georgia: SBL Press, 2015.
- Spencer Miller, Althea. "Feminist Hermeneutics: New Testament." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, Vol. F (Publication Pending by Walter de Gruyter GmbH Berlin, 2014).
- Spencer Miller, Althea. "Rethinking Orality for Biblical Studies." in Roland Boer, ed. *Postcolonialism and the Hebrew Bible*. (Atlanta, Georgia: Society of Biblical Literature, 2013) 35-68.
- Spencer Miller, Althea "Review of *Discourse: Learning and Teaching in Philosophical and Religious Studies*, Volume 7, No. 2, Spring 2008. ISSN: 1741-4164". Publication pending in *Teaching Theology and Religion* 2013
- "Women and Christianity in the Caribbean: Living Past the Colonial Legacy," in Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan & Karen Jo Torjesen, eds. (Praeger, Santa Barbara, California; 2009) pp. 273-303.
- "Chiefs: Female," in Bonnie Smith, Gen. Ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History*, (Oxford University Press, New York; 2008) 335 – 336.
- O'Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, Co-Editors, *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005)
- Spencer-Miller, Althea. "Lucy Bailey Meets the Feminists." in O'Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, eds. *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005) 209-238.

- Spencer-Miller, Althea. “Feminist Pedagogies: Implications of a Liberative Praxis.” in O’Brien Wicker, Kathleen. Althea Spencer Miller and Musa Dube, eds. *Feminist New Testament Studies: Global and Future Perspectives*, (Palgrave MacMillan, October 2005) 17-40.
- “Ecumenism, Gender and Ethics: A Biblical Vision,” in Tetsunao Yamamori, Bryant L. Myers and Kenneth Luscombe, eds. *Serving With the Urban Poor*, (MARC: Monrovia: California, 1998) 167-176.

### **Other Professional Contributions**

- Spencer Miller, Althea. “Peer Review of ‘Storying as Teaching Practice: Exploring Caribbean Creole Narrative Strategies in Teaching Religious Stories: “Yuh Too Story” Story as Method and Practice,” for *Teaching Theology and Religion*, a publication of Wabash Center, Crawfordsville, IN, 2013.

### **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

2016 to present	African Association for the Study of Religions Liaison to the Society of Biblical Literature
2016 to present	Member SBL Program Unit, Islands, Islanders, and the Scriptures.
2010 to 2016	Co-Chair, SBL Program Unit, “Islanders and Islands Under the Bible.
2007 to present	Organizing Committee Member and Member the African Association for the Study of Religions
Fall 2006	Faculty Learning Community of the Claremont Colleges – Student Advising.
2004 to present	Society for Biblical Literature
2003 – 2004	Faculty Learning Community of the Claremont Colleges

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

- Panelist SBL Panelist for Review *The Material Life of Roman Slaves* by Sandra Joshel and Lauren Hackworth Petersen's
- “Black Folks Magic: Revivalist Responses to Colonial Scripturalization” presented at the Drew Transdisciplinary Theological Colloquium March 2017
- “Of Cruise Ships and Paul’s Journeys” presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.
- Respondent, Postcolonial Studies and Biblical Studies: African Association for the Study of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2016.

- Panelist SBL Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Seminar. Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, GA, 2015.
- “Paul in the City: Theoretical Formulations” presented October 2014 at New York Theological Seminary Conference on “The City in the Bible”
- “Interpreting Orality Interpreting the New Testament” presented as the 2012 Kathleen O’Brien Wicker Lecture at Scripps College, February, 2012.
- “Response to Papers on Minoritization in the USA” at the Society of Biblical Literature 2011.
- “Reggae Transforming Exegesis” Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, November, 2010.
- “Unholy Zygotes: Western Slavery, The Shoah, and the Bible,” Lecture given at Pomona College, April, 2010.
- “Speaking in Island Tongues” Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in New Orleans, November, 2009.
- Review of *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel’s Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*, Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in New Orleans, November, 2009
- “Caribbean Biblical Hermeneutics” Caribbean Ministers Association Annual Retreat/Meeting, July, 2009.
- “Feminist Biblical Studies: Interrogating Empires in Diverse Contexts” presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, November, 2008.
- “Stereotyping Evangelicals” “Mirrors & Windows: Facing Religious Stereotypes and Prejudice: The Second Annual Religions in Conversation Conference” April 13, 2008.
- “Religion: Women’s Curse or Women’s Blessing?” International Women’s Day Lecture: The Claremont Colleges, March 6, 2008.
- “Introduction to the New Testament,” presented at Conference of Religions in Conversation: Sacred Texts held at Claremont Graduate University, April 15, 2007.
- “Lucy Bailey Meets the Feminists,” presented at conference on the Global Future of Feminist New Testament Scholarship, Scripps College, Spring 2003.
- “The Gods Speak and Humans Hear: Communications Between Spirit-kind and Human-kind in *Acts of the Apostles* and Homer’s *Iliad*,” presented at conference on “Luke and Mimesis: Imitations of Classical Literature in Luke-Acts.” Claremont Graduate University, March, 2002.
- “From Holy Writ to Holy Grit: Biblical Hermeneutics and Christian Social Action,” presented at Claremont Graduate University, Minority Mentor Program Conference on “Social Justice: From Reflection to Action,” Spring 2001.
- “When the Stones Cry Out,” Opening Convocation for Claremont School of Theology, 2000.
- “Women in Caribbean Theological Education, “Consultation on Theological Education in the Caribbean,” United Theological College of the West Indies, Fall 1996.

- “Caribbean Hermeneutics From a Feminist Perspective,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 1995.

## **OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

2017 to present	External Reviewer for <i>Rethinking Mission, U.K.</i>
2017 to present	External Reviewer for <i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i> .
2014-2016	Editorial Board, <i>Sapienta Logos</i> .
2011-2016	Co-Chair for SBL Unit, “Islands, Islanders, and the Scriptures”
2010-Present	African Association for the Study of Religion AAR Organizing Committee
2009-2014	Committee for SBL Unit, “Islands, Islanders, and the Scriptures”
2009-2010	Participant in Wabash Workshop for Pre-Tenure African American Faculty in Theology and Religious Studies.
Spring 2009	Association of Theological Schools Workshop for Junior Faculty
Summer 2008	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Workshop on Christianity and the Holocaust.
March, 2008	Participant in workshop on “Teaching Gender and Islam: A Workshop for College and University Instruction” at Whittier College, CA.
Fall 2006	Claremont Colleges Faculty Learning Community – Advising and Mentoring
Fall 2003 and 2004	Claremont Colleges Faculty Learning Community - Feminist Pedagogy
Spring 2003	Co-convenor with Kathleen Wicker: Conference on the Global Future of Feminist New Testament Scholarship – Scripps College.
Fall 2000	“When The Stones Cry” Convocation 2000, Claremont School of Theology
Summer 1999	“The Future of Ecumenism in the Caribbean.” 1999 Paper prepared for consultation with Christian Aid United Kingdom.
1998-1999	Curriculum writer Caribbean Examination’s Council: Religious Education.
1979-1981	Curriculum writer Caribbean Conference of Churches “Fashion Me A People” Church School Curriculum.
1973-1975	Adult Literacy Program, Teacher – Jamaica.

## NON-ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

### CONFERENCES AND CONSULTATIONS

November 2017	“Decentralizing Hermeneutics: <i>Misseo Dei</i> And Other Impertinent Latin Phrases” Paper presented at the United Methodist Church Colloquium on <i>Misseo Dei</i> .
Oct. – Nov. 2017	“The Bible, Human Sexuality, and the Church” Three session Bible Study series presented at Hamilton United Methodist Church, Neptune City, NJ
August 2011	Bible Study Leader at Reconciling Ministries Network/Methodists for Social Action Joint Annual Conference.
April 2010	Paper presented at “World Without Empire:” Peace for Life Conference, Union Theological Seminary, April 2010.
1998 – 1999	Theological Consultant to the United Church of Canada General Executive Committee
April 1996	World Council of Churches Faith and Order Committee Consultation on “ <i>Episkopé</i> and Episcopacy and the Quest for Visible Unity”
Spring 1998 1994	Consultation on Caribbean Theology: Bible Study Leader United Methodist Church Clergy Women’s Consultation - Chicago
1988	Liaison Coordinator Conference of African-American United Methodist Clergy Women Caucus Meeting, Providence Island, Bahamas.
1985	Co-coordinator and Presenter First Ecumenical Conference of Caribbean Clergy Women, Antigua
1984	Oxford Institute of Methodist Theological Studies, Oxford, England
1982	United Methodist Clergy Women’s Consultation in Albuquerque, New Mexico (Representing the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas)

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Drew

2016/2017	Committee on Faculty
Spr. 2012 to Present	Contextual Education and Community Life Constellation
Spr. 2011	Training for PREP Program
Spr. 2010 to Present	Faculty Advisor, Spectrum
Fall 2009 to Present	University Civic Engagement Committee

Other	Service on Chapel Committee, Dean’s Council, DMIN Committee,
<b>Church</b>	
Ongoing	Preaching by invitation at United Methodist Congregations and other denominations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Friday, April 6, 2012 Mount Olive Baptist Church, “Father Into Your Hands”</li> </ul>
Sept. 2013 to Present	Steering Committee Methodists in New Directions
June 2012	Presenter, “Come to the River Conference”
Spr. 2012 to Present	Member Methodists in New Direction, organization of the New York Conference of the United Methodist Church
Mar. 2012	“Jesus and the Poor” One day workshop conducted for the Capital District of the North Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church
Feb. 2012	Bishop Sprague Lectures at North Broadway United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH.
Aug. 2011 to Present	Member Methodists of Color
Aug. 2011	Bible Study Leader for three days at “Sing a New Song,” Conference sponsored by Methodist Fellowship for Social Action and the Reconciling Ministries Network of the United Methodist Church.
Oct. 2010	“Known By Your Fruit,” Sermon, Stanley UCC for Coming Out Sunday
Feb. 2010	Visiting Teacher at Fifth Ave. Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, NY (Led three Church School Sessions on the New Perspective on Paul.)
July 2009	“Walk to the Finish” Sermon preached at First UMC, Jamaica Plains, NY
May 2009	Women’s Day Sermon at Calvary UMC, Bronx, NY
Apr. 2009	Women’s Day Sermon at Bethel AME Church, Morristown, NJ
Feb. 2009	Panelist at Bethel AME Church, Morristown, NJ; Panel on Social Issues in the Black Community, Bethel AME Men’s Weekend
Dec. 2008	Sermon at St. John’s UMC, Valley Stream, NY

**General Community**

Aug. 2008 to present	Member League of Women Voters
2007	Volunteer, Chino Institute for Women (Women’s Prison)
1999	Police Commission, Jamaica Constabulary Force, Government of Jamaica
1998 – 1999	International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin: Vice Chairperson

1997	Member, Kingston and St. Andrew Inter-Preparatory School Athletic Competition Organizing Committee
1991 – 1992	Student Representative to the Religion Executive Committee, Claremont Graduate University
1987 – 1989	Board of Trustees National Children’s Home
1987 – 1988	Jamaica Religious Education Teachers Association: Public Relations Officer
1985 – 1989	Board of Friends of the Women’s Centre

## **PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE**

1997–1999	Senior Programme Officer, Caribbean Conference of Churches, Kingston, Jamaica.
1995-1999	Superintendent Minister Mt. Fletcher Circuit, Kingston, Jamaica. Responsibilities included: Senior Administrator, Preacher, Teacher, Pastor, Mt. Fletcher, Content Gap, Hall’s Delight and Dallas Methodist Churches Chair of School Boards: Halls Delight Secondary, Mt. Fletcher Primary Chaplain to the University of the West Indies. Responsibilities included: Preaching, Administration, Counselling and mentoring ministerial students.
1986 – 1989	Chaplain Excelsior Education Centre working in Community College, High School, Primary (Elementary) School. Responsibilities included: Representative of the Methodist Church in Jamaica to the Boards of Governors, Ceremonies Coordinator, Lecturer, Senior Teacher, Guidance Counselor, Liaison between Church and Schools.
1981 – 1985	Associate Minister Coke Circuit: Coke, Arnold Rd., Ebenezer and Trinity Methodist Churches. Responsibilities included: Administration Preaching, Teaching, Pastoring; Chair of School Board: Arnold Road Methodist Basic School; Chaplain to Mico Teachers College
1975-1977	National Youth Service Worker, Churches’ Advisory Bureau, Kingston, Jamaica. Responsibilities included: <b>Coordinating</b> the development of an Educational Programme for Pregnant Teenagers, Recruiting Students and Staff, Social Work, Teaching, Developing Curriculum.

## **SIGNIFICANT TRAVEL EXPERIENCES**

Summer 2010	Research travel to Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, and Antigua to conduct autoethnographic data gathering on oral cultures.
1998 – 1999	Made repeat visits to Canada as a theological consultant with the Central Executive Committee of the United church of Canada
1998 – 1999	Vice Chair of the International Executive Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
1997 – 1999	Member of the International Executive Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. As a member of the Executive Committee of Fellowship of the Least Coin I traveled to Finland and Thailand. In Finland I visited small communities as a promotional envoy of the committee. In Thailand I had significant contact with local communities as the Committee toured community development projects it had funded.
1997 – 1999	Made repeat visits for supervisory and conference purposes throughout the Caribbean as an officer of the Caribbean Conference of Churches. Countries visited include Antigua, Barbados, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago.
1996	Development Consultation with World Vision International in the Philippines: Involved visitation with community development programs that were funded by World Vision.
1980	Three month summer pastoral assignment working in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.