



# Lancaster

## THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

### 2023 DOCTOR OF MINISTRY SYMPOSIUM

Time	Student	Supervisor	Title	Abstract
9:00	<b>Tamika Holder</b>	Rev. Dr. Sandra Fees, Lancaster Seminary (MDiv, DMin)	Towards a Culture of Consent: Helping Congregations Think More Comprehensively about Social Norms	When the topic of consent is mentioned, people often assume that the topic being discussed pertains to consent to sexual activity. While, considering all that is going on in our world, that is an important topic to explore, that is not what this project is about. This project examines consent from the perspective of demonstrating agreement to engage in certain activities (hugging, laying of hands, hand holding, kisses or any other form of physical contact) in the context of church. The aim is to assist congregations in coming to a common understanding of what consent (particularly in church) is, why it is important and how it is connected to and influences our interactions as a community. This project will explore how conversations about consent are occurring all around us; they are happening openly in workplaces, medical facilities and academic institutions but rarely are they occurring in church. This project will engage how cultural norms and socialization impact our engagements with one another; the ways that an individual is reared has implications on how that person shows up in the community. It looks at the cultural norms of churches and whether these norms are oriented towards consent or oriented in a way that potentially makes people more vulnerable to having their boundaries crossed. The goal of this project is to raise awareness about the ways we currently interact with one another, provide clarity about how some of our ways of being might be harmful and to spark interest in having consent-centered discussions that might formulate new norms that help everyone feel safer and welcome.
10:00	<b>LaJeanne Grinnage</b>	Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace, Luther Seminary	On the Way to How: Church Leaders' Attitudes on Introducing Communication as a Part of Leadership Development and Training in the Black Church	<p>The role of communication in leadership in the Black Church has not been discussed often especially not in the larger conversation of how the traditional Black Church with a top-down leadership can be the most effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century church. "On the Way to How: Church Leaders' Attitudes on Introducing Communication as a Part of Leadership Development and Training in the Black Church" begins to address this robust topic by first exploring how well introducing the role of communication as a part of leadership development would be received by pastors and senior leaders that currently utilize a top-down leadership style.</p> <p>Specifically, this project studied the attitudes of senior pastors and senior leaders affiliated with the Pilgrim Assemblies International reformation in the Chicagoland area regarding the role of communication in leadership in order to create a workshop that encourages pastors and senior leaders to envision together new models of leadership. First, surveys were completed by senior pastors and their senior leaders to develop a baseline for the views on leadership and communication. From the survey responses and literature, a workshop was developed to introduce communication as a part of leadership. After the workshop, senior pastors and seniors leaders submitted evaluations to discuss their views on communication and leadership for the future. Their views suggest that the Black Church is in more of a transition that prior research suggests.</p>

11:00	<b>Jeffrey A. Chandler</b>	Rev. Dr. Jamie Eaddy, Thoughtful Transitions	Discovering the “Why” of Clergy Self-care and Burnout: What Lies at the Root of Recurring Behavior Patterns of Pastoral Clergy that Results in Cyclical Returns to Familiar Experiences of Burnout	Clergy burnout and self-care has been a subject of study now for many years. This study has been defined and redefined within variable context describing the causes and effects of burnout and the lack of self-care among clergy and other helping professions. This study looks to add to conversation of clergy burnout and self-care, the answer to the question why, in response to the recurring behavior among clergy who experience burnout, recover, undertake ascribed self-care measures only to repeatedly experience burnout. This study hopes that through the discovery of the why of clergy burnout and self-care that this repetitive cycle can be broken.
1:00	<b>Clarence Kelby Heath</b>	Dr. Evelyn L. Parker, Perkins School of Theology	A Theological Observation, Assessment, and Recommendations to Improve the Itinerant Ministry in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	This project is an assignment to better understand the itinerant—traveling ministry—in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME). The CME Church is a major denomination of Black Methodist bodies of the Wesleyan tradition. Pastors are the primary individuals that fulfill the work of itinerancy in the church. Pastors are also suffering from itinerant ministry at alarming rates. There is a gap in current research that focuses on itinerant work and its significance in Methodism. This research will provide findings on the CME itinerant context, review traveling ministry as a biblical concept, explore itinerant history, and offer personal itinerant insight. The discoveries will also include a qualitative method to survey the experiences of other itinerant ministers in the CME Church. The results are summarized and interpreted for a better understanding of itinerant pastors. The project will conclude with recommendations to improve the itinerant work of the CME Church.
2:00	<b>Michele Conway</b>	Rev. Dr. Marianne Grabowski (LTS DMin)	The Expression and Experience of Staff Suffering in the Context of Ambulatory Oncology Care	This paper examines the shared suffering of an ambulatory oncology team. This project was undertaken to explore the grief experiences associated with the unique relationship-building culture of ambulatory oncology care. While there are studies that examine the existential pain associated with relationship building and loss, the literature stops short by only including the experiences of clinical team members, excluding the voices of administrative employees and teams as a whole. This study’s intent is to peer into the grief of the team as a whole, from nurse, to physician, to administrative staff. The method for this study is thematic analysis in the form of structured interviews using open-ended questions. The hope for the research is to “identify patterns of meanings, known as themes” within my resources as a way to answer the research question. Due to my history as part of the cancer center culture, I chose this type of research to reflect more deeply upon the experiences and stories of the participants. Investigator Brenda M. Alton, PhD interviewed me initially as a way for me to grasp my own experience in order to better understand theirs. Due to this experience, I was able to search for overt and underlying themes, identify personal assumptions on my part, and, ultimately, to express a shared reality of the deeper human condition as experienced in the ambulatory oncology setting. Fourteen staff members from various disciplines were interviewed regarding their experience of patient death, involvement with the patient’s family, and grief associated feelings post-death. They were also asked about the sense of loss associated with their position in the patient’s family structure. Common themes highlighted are sadness, poor boundary maintenance, self-esteem concerns, lack of practices of resilience, suffering due to the loss of significant relationships due to patient deaths, questions of meaning, and understandings about, God, end of life, and the afterlife.