

### MONDAY

February 5

9:30 a.m.	Welcome, registration and coffee	Gallery
10 a.m.	Opening Chapel <i>Valerie Bridgeman</i>	Alford Centrum
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11 a.m.	Lecture I <i>Wil Gafney</i>	Alford Centrum
Noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
1 p.m.	Workshop <i>Valerie Bridgeman</i>	Alford Centrum
3 p.m.	Dismissal	

### TUESDAY

February 6

9:30 a.m.	Welcome and coffee	Gallery
10 a.m.	Lecture II <i>Wil Gafney</i>	Alford Centrum
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11 a.m.	Panel Discussion <i>Tejai Beulah, Valerie Bridgeman, Elaine Nogueira-Godsey</i>	Alford Centrum
Noon	Lunch	Dunn Dining Hall
1 p.m.	Closing Chapel <i>Wil Gafney</i>	Alford Centrum
2 p.m.	Dismissal	

### GATHERING WITH PRAISE

Prelude	Danny Russell, organist
Greeting and Welcome	President Jay Rundell
Call to Worship	Gwen Thomas MTSO Student

One: Divine One, you have filled us with the spirit and the survival strength of Hagar and the resilience of every woman who crossed the Middle Passage. We are a gifted and bold people.

**Many: We are grateful that you showed us how to love fiercely and fearlessly and to protect all that we love.**

One: O God, you created us powerful and strong. And you gave us tenderness and care. When we would be harsh, we are gentle instead.

**Many: Thank you for teaching us to be merciful as you are merciful to us.**

One: Help us be compassionate and forgiving toward those whose evil doing makes us want to punish them. May we draw on the words of Jesus, "Forgive them because they don't know..."

**Many: Give us courage to hold our peace and to love mercy more than vengeance.**

One: You teach us lessons with your Spirit and through your still, small voice. You hold us close and let us rest our heads when we're weary.

**All: You drew us with your kindness. You have kept us with your power. Now may your grace and mercy abide with us in all that we do.**

\* Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" UMH No. 103

*Over please*

## TIME OF PRAYER

Torri Foster  
MTSO Student

One: O God, our God you carry us through our weak and weary times.  
You keep us even when our pain is not heard,  
when we have only quiet aching and muffled tears.  
It is you who has brought us this far.  
We stand on the shoulders of people who suffered, fought and died.  
The past, though mired with blood, sweat and tears,  
pushes us onward and upward to a bright and glorious present.

**Many: We lift our voices to sing in harmonious praise  
about the liberating love of Jesus, the Christ.  
He has brought us to a place where the faith and hope of our ancestors have led.  
They pushed past darkness and found victories.  
We are their heirs.**

One: You have afforded to us grace and mercy.  
We have strong faith and confidence in your divine power.  
We give you all the glory and honor.  
Help us to extend love and kindness to others today.  
Help us show mercy and justice to all people,  
in all circumstances, and to do what is right.

**All: Bless us. Bless us indeed, O God. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION

Isaiah 40:21-31

Claudine Leary  
Director of Development

Message

“The Knowable Mystery of God”

Valerie Bridgeman  
MTSO Interim Academic Dean

## GOING FORTH

\* Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

UMH No.117

\* Sending Out

Valerie Bridgeman

\* Postlude

### GATHERING WITH PRAISE

Prelude	Danny Russell, organist
Greeting and Welcome	President Jay Rundell
*Call to Worship	Brooke Hayes MTSO Student

One: We look to our leaders for direction, wisdom and stability.

**Many: We trust our bodies for constancy, fulfillment and joy.**

One: We rely on our family and friends for love, compassion and hope.

**Many: When our leaders betray, when our bodies fail, and when our family and friends disappoint, God offers us another way.**

One: God will guide us.

**Many: The Holy Spirit will sustain us.**

One: Christ will comfort us.

**All: We will be welcomed home.**

* Hymn	"I Sing the Almighty Power of God"	UMH No. 152
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### TIME OF PRAYER

Karen Cook  
M.Div. '03

**O God who is greater than the most powerful forces in this world, enable us to be still and know that you are God. Answering out of the whirlwind of everyday life, breathe in us your Holy Spirit to strengthen, comfort and guide us. God of all wisdom, speak to us this hour that we might become makers of your peace and justice in our communities and our world. Amen.**

### PROCLAMATION

1 Samuel 8:4-18	Jenn Fowler MTSO Student
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Message	"Give Us a Man-King"	Wil Gafney
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### GOING FORTH

* Hymn	"We are Called"	FWS No. 2172
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* Sending Out	Valerie Bridgeman MTSO Interim Academic Dean
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* Postlude
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### WIL GAFNEY

The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D., is associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. An Episcopal priest and former Army chaplain, she is the author of *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne* and a Wisdom Commentary, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah*. She also is co-editor of *The Peoples' Bible* and *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*.

She earned her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Duke University, her Master of Divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity and her bachelor's degree from Earlham College.

Dr. Gafney's sermons have been published in the books *Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection* and *The Audacity of Faith: Christian Leaders Reflect on the Election of Barack Obama*.

She remains a member of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, as she is canonically resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Founded in 1792, it is the first Episcopal church in the U.S. founded by and for African-Americans. She is a former member of the Dorshei Derekh Reconstructionist Minyan of the Germantown Jewish Centre in Philadelphia. She remains actively engaged in interreligious work and is particularly interested in how Jews and Christians interpret the texts they hold in common. She is also licensed in the Diocese of Fort Worth.



### VALERIE BRIDGEMAN

Dr. Valerie Bridgeman is interim academic dean and associate professor of homiletics and Hebrew Bible at MTSO. A preacher and speaker in high demand throughout the country, she is the founding president of WomanPreach!, an organization bringing preachers to full prophetic voice. Ordained in the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana), she holds a doctorate from Baylor University, a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a B.A. from Trinity University.



### ELAINE NOGUEIRA-GODSEY

Dr. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey is associate professor of theology, ecology and race at MTSO. She brings a global perspective to her teaching and scholarly research. A native of Brazil, where she received her bachelor's degree, she earned her master's and Ph.D. from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Dr. Nogueira-Godsey has written extensively on the intersection of ecology, race, gender and theology. The GlobalChurch Project recently named her one of "18 Latin American female theologians you should know about."



### TEJAI BEULAH

Tejai Beulah, coordinator of partnerships and the Black Church and African Diaspora Studies specialization at MTSO, is a Ph.D. candidate in American religious history at Drew University. Her dissertation examines the theological writings of black evangelical preachers and activists in the Black Power era. She earned a Master of Theological Studies degree from MTSO; a master's degree in African American and African studies from Ohio State University; and a bachelor's degree in English, history, and gender diversity studies from Xavier University.



**FACULTY LECTURE**

7 p.m. March 7

## **Space-Sharing Principles for Religious Organizations and Groups**

Paul Numrich, professor in MTSO's Snowden Chair for the Study of Religion and Interreligious Relations, will share findings from his research involving space sharing, from benefits to resolving disputes. Presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**ANNUAL LECTURE ON WORLD RELIGIONS AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE**

7 p.m. March 8

## **The Crisis of Religious Freedom in America and Abroad: How It Affects Us All**

Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, delivers a lecture presented by the Theological Consortium of Greater Columbus, comprised of MTSO, Pontifical College Josephinum and Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University. It will take place at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

**LECTURE**

7 p.m. March 13

## **Shabbat: An Epistemological Principle for Holiness, Sustainability, and Justice in the Pentateuch**

MTSO welcomes guest lecturer Marvin A. Sweeney, professor of Hebrew Bible at the Claremont School of Theology, where he teaches courses in Hebrew Bible and the history of Judaism and Jewish thought. Presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**WILLIAMS INSTITUTE SPRING LECTURES**

7 p.m. March 20 and 1 p.m. March 21

## **Embracing the Other**

Grace Ji-Sun Kim, associate professor of theology at Earlham School of Religion, delivers two lectures. She is the author or editor of 12 books, including the recently published *Planet Solidarity: Global Women's Voices on Christian Doctrine and Climate Justice*.

**WORKSHOP**

April 11 and 12

## **Building Community Bridges: Conversations on Disability**

This workshop begins at 7 p.m. April 11 with a plenary lecture by Bill Gaventa, a consultant and trainer who works in the area of inclusive spiritual support for people with disabilities and their families. A day of conversation follows on April 12. Presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**WORKSHOP FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS**

April 17

## **Faith, Food and Flourishing**

Heber Brown III is a community organizer, beginner farmer, social entrepreneur and senior pastor of Pleasant Hope Baptist Church in Baltimore. He will preach at an afternoon chapel service, lead a workshop around food security for congregational leaders and deliver an evening lecture. Registration is required for the workshop. Presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT LECTURE**

7 p.m. May 1

## **Human Trafficking**

Yvonne Zimmerman, associate academic dean and associate professor of Christian ethics at MTSO, and Letitia Campbell, director of contextual education I and clinical pastoral education at the Candler School of Theology, will deliver this lecture, presented by the Theological Commons at MTSO.

**Visit [www.mtso.edu/events](http://www.mtso.edu/events) for details on all upcoming happenings.**

Events for the Schooler Institute on Preaching will be held in the Alford Centrum, the adjoining Gallery, and Dunn Dining Hall.

