

RAQUEL ST. CLAIR LETTSOME

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament Studies <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	2005
Master of Divinity <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1995
Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies <i>Yale University</i> (New Haven, CT)	1992

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Professor of New Testament and Womanist Biblical Interpretation <i>Eden Theological Seminary</i> (St. Louis, MO)	2023-present
Distinguished Visiting Professor of the New Testament & Womanist Hermeneutics <i>Eden Theological Seminary</i>	2022-23
Scholar in Residence <i>Department of Research and Scholarship</i> (African Methodist Episcopal Church)	2022-Present
Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the New Testament <i>Eden Theological Seminary</i> (St. Louis, MO)	2020-22
Adjunct Instructor <i>United Lutheran Seminary</i> (Philadelphia, PA)	Summer 2021
Adjunct Instructor <i>Payne Theological Seminary</i> (Wilberforce, OH)	Fall 2015-2017
Adjunct Instructor <i>Payne Theological and United Lutheran Seminaries</i>	Summer 2009, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mark: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Preaching and Teaching. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, exp. 2026.

Breakthrough You: 30 Daily Devotions to Move You Forward. Middletown, NY: Raquel S. Lettsome LLC, 2020.

Call and Consequences: A Womanist Reading of Mark's Gospel. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2008.

The African Presence in the Bible: Gospel Sermons Rooted in History. Coauthor William D. Watley. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2000.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Can I Be a Witness. A Testimony and Tribute to Brian K. Blount" In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (exp. 2024).

"Mary's Slave Song: The Tensions and Turnarounds of Faithfully Reading Doulē in the Magnificat." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* (2021).

"So, What Does the Bible Say About This...? Context, Questions, and Correspondence as a Means of Refracting a Cultural Lens for African American Biblical Interpretation." In *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology* 65 (3): 276-284 (2011).

Essays in Edited Volumes

"Womanist Criticism and the Quest for the Historical Jesus: Contrasts, Connections, Construction, and Continuation" in *Oxford University Press Handbook on the Historical Jesus*, exp. 2025.

"Womanist Biblical Interpretation (Updated)" in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary.* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2024.

"Matthew 16:21-28 – Proper 17 (Sunday between August 28-September 3)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World.* Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"Matthew 18:15-20 – Proper 18 (Sunday between September 4-September 10)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World.* Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"Matthew 18:21-35 – Proper 19 (Sunday between September 11-September 17)" in *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary Series—Commentary 2: Connecting the Reading to the World.* Edited by Joel Green, Luke Powery, and Cynthia Rigby. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2018.

"John 1:43-51 Pastoral Perspective." In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

"John 2:1-12 Pastoral Perspective." In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

"John 2:13-25 Pastoral Perspective." In *Feasting on the Gospels—John, Volume 1: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*. Edited by Cynthia A. Jarvis and E. Elizabeth Johnson. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2015.

"Mark." Pages 127-172 in *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Edited by Margaret Aymer, Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, and David A. Sanchez. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2014.

"Preaching from the Overflow." Pages 115-130 in *More Power in the Pulpit: How America's Most Effective Black Preachers Prepare Their Sermons*. Edited by Cleophus J. LaRue. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2009.

"Womanist Criticism." In *New Interpreter's Bible Handbook on Preaching*. Edited by Paul Wilson, Jana Childers, Cleophus J. LaRue, and John Rottman. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008.

"Womanist Biblical Interpretation." Pages 54-62 in *True to Our Native Land: An African American New Testament Commentary*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2007.

Web-Based Publications

"Lectionary Commentary: Christmas." In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

"Compact Unit: Anti-Addiction Sunday." In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

"Lectionary Commentary: Usher's Day." In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

"Lectionary Commentary: Palm Sunday." In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

"Lectionary Commentary: Advent/World AIDS Day." In *The African American Lectionary*. 2013.

Other Publications

"How to Teach Laity to Read the Bible" in *Christian Ministers Handbook II*, 2024

"The Shepherd's Staff: The Role of the Assistant Pastor." In *Doing Church, Vol. 2*. New Seasons Press, 2010.

"Interpreting Scripture for the Purpose of Writing a Sermon." In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2004.

"Prayerful Exegesis," In *The African American Pulpit*. Summer 2002.

HONORS & AWARDS

Martin Luther King, Jr, Collegium of Scholars <i>Morehouse College</i>	2022
City of Newark Citation for Outstanding Contributions to the City	2004
Dissertation Fellowship <i>Fund for Theological Education</i>	1999-2000
President's Doctoral Fellowship <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995-1999
New Testament Fellowship <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
Honors Thesis in Bible <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
Expository Preaching Prize <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i>	1995
William Fries, III Scholarship <i>Yale University</i>	1988-1992
National Merit Scholar: National Negro Achievement Scholarship	1988

INVITED LECTURER/PREACHER/PANELS

"The Bible as Tool for Transforming the Life of the Leader," Lecturer, 110th Hampton University Ministers Conference, Hampton, VA 2024

"Autobiographical Biblical Criticism or Critical Personal Narrative of Womanist and BIPOC Biblical Scholars," Panelist for the Womanist Biblical Interpretation Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX 2023

"Preaching Hope to a Weary World," Festival of Homiletics, Minneapolis, MN 2023.

41st Annual Preaching with Power Conference, United Lutheran Theological Seminary, Phil., PA 2023.

"Call and Consequences," Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO 2022.

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Lilly Roundtable Capstone Conference, Princeton, NJ 2022.

“Remembering and the Celebrating the Past, Present, and Future of Womanist Interpretation,” Invited Panelist for the Inaugural Session of the Womanist Biblical Interpretation Program Unit, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Virtual 2021.

“Less Stress Preaching and Prep” Festival of Homiletics, Virtual 2020.

“The Year of Restoration (Joel 2:25),” 1st Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2018.

“Preaching Sermon Series,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2018.

“A New Thing (Isaiah 43:8-12),” 1st Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, PA 2017.

“Take a S.E.A.T: 4 Practical Steps for Weekly Sermon Prep,” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017.

“Prophetic Preaching: Are You Prepared to Die?” Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ 2017.

“Remember, You’re a Sheep,” Medical Humanities Retreat, Baylor University, Waco, TX 2017.

“What Does the Lord Require? Exploring the Tensions of Doing Ministry During Changing Times (Micah 6),” Woman in Ministry Conference, Atlanta, GA 2016.

“Introduction to the Gospel of Mark: Follow Me?” Baylor University Department of Religion, Baylor University, Waco, TX, November 2015.

“Preparing the Preacher,” “Prophetic Preaching,” and “Responses to Prophetic Preaching,” Herbstler Alumni/ae Conference, Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, April 2015.

“The Sovereignty of God: Do You Really Believe God is in Charge?” 4th Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2014.

“A Theological Approach to Preaching the Whole Counsel of God. Acts 20:17-38,” 3rd Annual Charles E. Booth Preaching Conference at United Theological Seminary, Columbus, OH, May 2013.

“Making the Connect: Exegeting the Text and Context for Effective Communication,” National Bible Conference, California State Baptist Convention, Fairfield, CA, March 2011.

“African American Women and Preaching,” at Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA, March 2009.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation and Preaching,” at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, October 2008.

“Womanist Biblical Interpretation,” at Drew School of Theology, Madison, NJ, October 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (Digital)

Weekly Bible Study <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021-Present
Exegesis Lab: Reading Narrative Passages & the Gospel of John <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2024
Exegesis Lab: Revelation <i>RSL Ministries (co-host Brian K. Blount)</i>	2022
Exegesis Lab: Gospel Parallels <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2022
Exegesis Lab: Luke 1:5-25 <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021
Exegesis Lab: Narrative <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021
Build a Better Bible Study <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2022-Present
Sundays Keep Coming <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2021-Present
Greek for Preachers and Teachers <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2020
Less Stress Sermon Prep <i>RSL Ministries</i>	2019-Present
Call and Consequences: A Womanist View of Suffering and Discipleship <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i>	Fall 2010
Abiding in the Vine: An Interpretation of John 15 <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i>	Spring 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (In Person)

The African Presence in the Bible <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	Spring 2010
Teacher Training Seminar for Christian Educators <i>Discipleship Development Institute</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	Fall 2009
Introduction to the New Testament <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2001, 2003
Introduction to Christian Theology <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2000, 2003
The Gospel of Mark <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Spring 2002
Biblical Interpretation <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2002
The Historical Witness of the Christian Church <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2001
Introduction to the Old Testament <i>St. James Christian Learning Center</i> (Newark, NJ)	Fall 2000
Teaching Assistant – The Gospel of Mark <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1999-2000
Teaching Assistant – Introduction to the New Testament <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1996-1997
Teaching Assistant – New Testament Greek <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1994-1995
Writing Center Tutor <i>Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	1993-1994

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Member – Steering Committee, Minoritized Criticism and Biblical Interpretation Unit <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>	2024-present
Member – Steering Committee, Womanist Biblical Interpretation Unit <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>	2020-Present
Member – Committee on the Status of Women in the Profession <i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>	1996-1997

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Associate Minister <i>Mount Zion AME Church</i> (Dover, DE)	2022-Present
Associate Minister <i>Bethel Missionary Baptist Church</i> (Wappinger Falls, NY)	2021-2022
Church Consultant <i>South Euclid United Church of Christ</i> (Cleveland, OH)	2021
Associate Minister <i>Union AME Church</i> (Warwick, NY)	2013-2022
Church Consultant <i>The Emmaus Community</i> (Chicago Heights, IL)	2013
Church Consultant <i>Emmanuel Baptist Church</i> (Brooklyn, NY)	2009-2011
Lead Minister, South Orange Location <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	2008-2012
Director, St. James Christian Learning Center <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1999-2005
Executive Minister <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1998-2012
Minister to Women <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1995-1998
Associate Minister <i>St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Newark, NJ)	1994-1995

DIGITAL MINISTRY

Founder & President (Weekly Bible Study, Online Courses, Webinars) <i>RSL Ministries</i> (501c3)	2021-Present
Founder & CEO (Professional Development/Coaching) <i>Raquel S. Lettsome LLC</i>	2019-Present

DENOMINATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

Board of Examiners <i>New Jersey Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i>	2009-2010
Bible Study Instructor – Annual Ministers’ Retreat <i>First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i>	1995-2003

PREACHING DISTINCTIONS

Revivalist Baptist Pastors and Ministers Conference of Philadelphia & Vicinity (Philadelphia, PA)	2023
Conference Preacher <i>African American Preaching Conference, Truett Theological Seminary</i> (Virtual)	2021
Congress of Christian Education <i>6th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (Macon, GA)	2021
Conference Preacher <i>Festival of Homiletics</i> (Virtual)	2020
Conference Preacher <i>17th Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference</i> (Arlington, VA)	2020
Conference Preacher <i>Festival of Homiletics</i> (San Antonio, TX)	2017
25th Reunion Preacher <i>Yale University</i> (New Haven, CT)	2017
Chapel Preacher <i>Duke University</i> (Durham, NC)	2016
Preacher-in-Residence <i>Joe R. Engle Institute of Preaching – Princeton Theological Seminary</i> (Princeton, NJ)	2016
Conference Preacher <i>9th Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference</i> (Chicago, IL)	2012

George A. Crawley Women in Ministry Preacher <i>Hampton University Ministers' Conference</i> (Hampton, VA)	2011
Conference Preacher <i>National Bible Conference – California State Baptist Convention</i> (Fairfield, CA)	2011
Distinguished Preacher <i>Distinguished Preacher Series – Riverside Church</i> (New York City, NY)	2010
Chapel Preacher <i>Union Presbyterian School of Christian Education</i> (Richmond, VA)	2008
Chapel Preacher <i>Drew School of Theology</i> (Madison, NJ)	2007

SUPERVISED MINISTRY / FIELD EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

Princeton Theological Seminary	1998-2012
New Brunswick Theological Seminary	1998-2012
Drew Theological Seminary	1998-2012
Union Theological Seminary	1998-2012

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

Society of Biblical Literature
American Academy of Religion

ADVISORY BOARDS

Womanist Readings in Scripture Publications Series, Fortress/Lexington Academic Press	2018-present
The African American Lectionary	2012-2013
The African American Pulpit	2001-2004

TEACHING AREAS

Introduction to the New Testament
Greek Grammar
New Testament Exegesis
Gospel of Mark
Synoptics
Womanist/Feminist Biblical Interpretation
Introduction to Preaching
Biblical Interpretation for Preaching

LANGUAGES

Ancient: Greek (Koine), Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic
Modern: Spanish, French, German

REFERENCES

Upon Request