

Aaron M. Treadwell

PH.D. | CURRICULUM VITAE

Associate Professor of History with Tenure
Director of Africana Studies
Middle Tennessee State University
Managing Editor, *AME Church Review*
Director, AME Church Digital Archives

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RESEARCH FOCUS

African American religious history; historical approaches to Christian social ethics; Black Christian moral reasoning under racial violence; civil rights and constitutional protection; Wesleyan and AME traditions; digital preservation of Black religious history.

Research examines radical, pious, and constitutional forms of theological protectionism and how Black Christian communities adapt moral strategies to protect life under changing conditions of violence and political constraint.

EDUCATION

2017, Doctor of Philosophy, History, Howard University.
2013, Masters, History, Florida A&M University.
2011, Masters, Divinity/Ministry History MDIV, Emory University.
2008, Bachelor of Science, Political Science, Religion, Florida State University.

SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH/CREATIVE ACTIVITY

BOOKS

Treadwell, Aaron M. *Tongues of Fire: Black Preaching in the Face of Lynching*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2025.

Recognized by the American Library Association Reference and User Services Association in Best Historical Materials for 2025.

Treadwell, Aaron M. *Black Christian Evolution: The Gospel of the Northern Negro in the Southern Mission*. Under contract with Louisiana State University Press.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Treadwell, Aaron M. "Tongues of Fire: AME Theological Protection in the Face of Lynching." *Griot: Journal of African American Studies* 39, no. 1 (2021): 28–47.

REFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Treadwell, Aaron M. "African Methodist Episcopal Church." *Oxford Bibliographies*, 2026.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Treadwell, Aaron M. "Total War: The Justification of Lynching Black Women." In *Breonna Taylor and Me: Black Women, Racial Justice, and Reclaiming Hope*, edited by Angela Douglas and Emmanuel Harris II. Peter Lang, 2024.
- Treadwell, Aaron M. "Black Fires: Analyzing the Relationship Between Radical Theology and Arson in South Georgia." In *Discourses of Crisis and the Study of Religion*, edited by Lauren Horn Griffin. Sheffield: Equinox, 2024.
- Treadwell, Aaron M. "Examining African American Voter Suppression, from Reagan to Trump." In *Understanding and Teaching Contemporary US History since Reagan*, edited by Kimber M. Quinney and Amy L. Sayward. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2022.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Treadwell, Aaron M. Review of *The Violent World of Broadus Miller: A Story of Murder, Lynch Mobs, and Judicial Punishment in the Carolinas*, by Kevin W. Young. *Journal of Southern History* 91, no. 4 (2025): 759-760.
- Treadwell, Aaron M. Review of *A Long Reconstruction: Racial Caste and Reconciliation in the Methodist Episcopal Church*, by Paul William Harris. *Journal of Southern History* 89, no. 4 (2023): 737-738.
- Treadwell, Aaron M. Review of *Soul Liberty: The Evolution of Black Religious Politics in Postemancipation Virginia*, by Nicole Myers Turner. *Church History*, (2021).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018-Current Middle Tennessee State University

Faculty appointment in History. Associate Professor with tenure following tenure and promotion in August 2024. Director of Africana Studies, 2023–present.

2016-2018 Florida Agriculture & Mechanical University
Visiting Professor of Religious History

2017 Edward Waters College
Adjunct Professor of History

2014–2016 Howard University
Graduate Teaching Fellow in American History

EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP AND DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP

2027-Current Managing Editor, AME Church Review

Editorial leadership for the journal of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, an international Wesleyan denomination. First issue under current editorial leadership forthcoming.

2021–Current Columnist, The Christian Recorder

Public scholarship on Black religious life, education, civil rights, and church history.

2019–Current Editorial Board, Methodist History

2019–Current African Methodist Episcopal Church Digital Archives

Director and CEO. Editor of the digital public history project; supported by a Louisville Institute grant. Digitization and preservation of AME religious history, including church periodicals and other documentary records. By September 2026, the project had processed approximately 700 volumes comprising more than 8,000 pages. Student training includes archival practice, metadata creation, and digital preservation.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

Louisville Institute, Project Grant for Researchers, 2024. "A Study on Black Religious Emigration: The Digital Archive for the African Methodist Episcopal Church." **\$30,000**.

Middle Tennessee State University, Non-instructional Assignment Grant. Awarded December 19, 2024, for a Fall 2025 semester sabbatical. **\$35,000**.

African Methodist Episcopal Church, AME-Archives. Principal investigator; private sponsorship, **\$5,000**. July 30, 2019–present.

Middle Tennessee State University, University Studies Department, M-Squared Mentoring Program. **\$500**.

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROJECTS

American Library Association, **Best Historical Material**, (July 2025).

Middle Tennessee State University, **Non Instructional Grant**, (Fall 2025). \$35,000.

Louisville Institute, **Project Grant for Researchers**, (2024). \$30,000.

Rutherford County, **Man of the Year**. (October 28, 2023).

Student Contributing Success, **Vice President for Student Affairs**. (2023, 2022, 2020).

Florida State University 35 under 35, **Florida State University**. (October 2022).

Murfreesboro 40 Under 40. (October 2022).

TEACHING AND MINISTERIAL FORMATION

TEACHING METHODS AND MODALITIES

Teaching in online, hybrid, and in-person formats. Course design incorporates primary source analysis, digital archives, and guided research connecting historical questions to race, religion, and democracy. Asynchronous instruction includes lecture videos, discussion boards, and research assignments.

COURSE CREATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2021 **Middle Tennessee State University**. AAS 4600: Senior Seminar.

2021 **Middle Tennessee State University**. HIST 2040: Survey of African American History I.

2021 **Middle Tennessee State University**. HIST 2050: Survey of African American History II.

2020 **Middle Tennessee State University**. Black Religion in America.

2016-2018 Florida A&M University, Black Male College Explorers Summer Program

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

Dean of the Board of Examiners and Chair of the Board of Institute

2022–present

African Methodist Episcopal Church. Denominational leadership in ministerial education and formation, informed by historical scholarship and pastoral experience.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

Dissertation Committee Member. (August 21, 2019 – Fall 2024). Advised: John Lodi

Doctoral Advisory Committee Member, "Oral Defense." (June 26, 2020). Advised: William Pruett

Master's Thesis Committee Member, "The Preservation of a Historic Black Farm: Matt Gardner Homestead in Giles County, Tennessee." (July 5, 2022). Advised: Abigail Coomes

Master's Thesis Committee Member, "Preservation, Public History, and the Rural African American Church: Emery Methodist Church, Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1869 – present." (April 18, 2022). Advised: Alexis Matrone

Max Farley. Master's thesis committee member. "Let Justice Be Done": Institutional Slavery at the University of Alabama. June 30, 2020.

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

Directed Individual/Independent Study, "HIST 7910: Readings in African-American Theological History." (August 2020). Advised: John Lodi

Directed Individual/Independent Study. (August 1, 2021 – Spring 2023). Advised: Alexis Matrone

Directed Individual/Independent Study. (August 1, 2021 – Spring 2023). Advised: Tre'Anna Stewart

UG Honors Thesis, Member, "The Untold Stories of the Maney Family Slaves: A Case Study of Slavery in Murfreesboro." (September 9, 2018 – November 11, 2019). Advised: Audrey Creel

PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Pastor, Allen Chapel AME Church

Murfreesboro, Tennessee; South District, 13th Episcopal District

November 2025–present

Pastor, New Webb Grove AME Church

Murfreesboro, Tennessee; South District, 13th Episcopal District.

2022–November 2025

Senior Pastor, Key Memorial United Methodist Church

Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Stones River District.

2020–present

Pastor, Stewart Memorial AME Church

Perry, Florida; Tallahassee District, 11th Episcopal District.

2016–2018

Assistant Pastor, Metropolitan AME Church

Washington, D.C.; 3rd District of the AME Church.

2013–2015

Senior Pastor, Oak Grove AME Church

Chattahoochee, Florida; 11th Episcopal District

2011–2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

CONFERENCE PANELS

ASALH Annual Meeting, "Black Expression as Resistance: Art, Faith, and Activism in the 20th Century."

Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Atlanta, GA. (September 2025).

AHA Annual Meeting, "Teaching Contemporary U.S. History since Reagan: Challenges and Resources."

American Historical Association, San Francisco, CA. (January 4, 2024).

SCAASI TURNS 40: Celebrating 40 years of Interpreting and Preserving African American History and Culture,

"The Negro Preacher and his support of the Second Amendment," The Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc., Doubletree Hotel By Hilton, Tallahassee, FL. (February 8, 2019).

CONFERENCE PAPERS

North American Association for the Study of Religion, "The Relationship Between Black Liberation Theology and Arson in the South," American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX. (November 19, 2021).

Slave Dwelling Project Conference: Changing Narratives in Changing Times, "Building a Fundamental Archive for the African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Survey Report on the Digital A.M.E.-Archives Project," Digital. (September 16, 2021).

With J. H. Cable. Florida Conference of Historians, "Theology as self-defense in the Black Florida Church," New College of Florida, Sarasota, FL. (February 23, 2019).

ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Power of a Thinking Church, "Re-Thinking Black Liberation Theology in Rural Settings," African Methodist Episcopal Church: Department of Research, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. (May 19, 2023).

Stand Together Fellowship, "Voting Rights and Regulation," Stand Together Fellowship, Maury Hills Church. (February 4, 2022).

ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC LECTURES

With P. K. Henning and R. G. Hardaway. MTSU NAACP Lecture Series, "Why are Black Kids being Arrested for Being Kids?," MTSU NAACP, MTSU Student Union Building, Murfreesboro, TN. (November 16, 2021).

2021 Honors Lecture Series: Rewriting the Constitution, "The Constitutional Right to Vote," MTSU Honors Lecture Series, MTSU Honors Hall, Murfreesboro, TN. (November 15, 2021).

ACADEMIC AND PUBLIC LECTURES

MTSU NAACP Lecture Series, "Critical Race Theory: What is It," MTSU NAACP, MTSU Student Union Building, Murfreesboro, TN. (November 2, 2021).

Tennessee Annual Conference 2019, "Updates on the A.M.E. Digital-Database: Tennessee," 13th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN. (October 24, 2019).

Kentucky Annual Conference, "Updates on the A.M.E. Digital-Database: Kentucky," 13th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, KY. (September 15, 2019).

West Tennessee Annual Conference, "Updates on the A.M.E. Digital-Database: West Tennessee," 13th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN. (September 13, 2019).

East TN Annual Conference, "Updates on the A.M.E. Digital-Database: East Tennessee," 13th District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN. (September 8, 2019).

CHURCH AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

13th District AME Church, "The Work of the Pulpit in Times of Crisis," African Methodist Episcopal Church, Greater Bethel AME, Nashville, TN. (February 6, 2026).

AME Church Digital Archive Report, "Louisville Institute Scholarship Conference," Louisville, Kentucky, (January 22-24).

AME Church South District Conference, "Incorporating Digital History and Digital Evangelism," African Methodist Episcopal Church, Allen Chapel AME, Murfreesboro, TN. (February 25, 2023).

NAACP State Convention, "Critical Race Theory in Tennessee," NAACP, The Preston Convention Center, Nashville, TN. (September 24, 2022).

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

ARTICLES IN THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2025). "Join Me As We Seek To Explore the Virtual Story of the African Methodist Episcopal Church." *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2024). "General Conference Business Session IV" (August 2024). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2024). "General Conference Business Session X" (August 2024). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2024). "The Social Reform of the North Carolina AME Church" (August 2024). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2023). "Schools are Banning Diversity Instruction, is Your 501c3 Status Next?" (July 2023). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2022). "Student Loan Forgiveness, Black Debt, and the M.Div. Degree" (November 13, 2022 ed.). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2022). "Has the Flag Run its Course in Our Sanctuary?" *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2022). "A Contextualization of the Bomb Threat: A Brief History of America's Use of Firebombing the Black Church" (p. 3). *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2022). "We Fought Once, Will We Fight Again?: Attempting to Contextualize A.M.E. Resistance." *The Christian Recorder*.

Treadwell, Aaron M. (2021). "The Deep Impact of AME Roots: Dr. Sidney McPhee's Story." *The Christian Recorder*.

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

"Aaron Treadwell: A new digital archive preserves nearly 175 years of AME Church documents," Duke University: Faith & Leadership. (September 1, 2026).

"West, Shabazz to give Black History Month public talks on Feb. 24, 27 at MTSU," The Tennessee Tribune. (February 20, 2023).

"MTSU professor urges MLK vigil attendees to 'put your mask on' to combat 'dust' of inequality [+VIDEO]," MTSU News. (January 18, 2023).

"Wes Moore to be sworn in as MD. governor on Frederick Douglass's Bible," The Washington Post. (January 14, 2023).

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

"Juvenile Oversight Committee," ABC News. (October 13, 2022).

"Event to meet Murfreesboro City Council candidates set," Murfreesboro Post. (June 10, 2022).

"Bishop William Barber to Give Virtual Remarks as Part of Feb. 25 Discussion on Church Activism, Black Wellness at MTSU," Tennessee Tribune. (February 2022).

"NEW TIME, LOCATION: Bishop Barber to give virtual remarks as part of Feb. 25 panel on church activism, Black wellness." MTSU News, February 2022.

"Murfreesboro NAACP presents special awards to the McPhees of MTSU," Daily News Journal. (February 2022).

"MTSU MLK vigil reflects on legacy, call to 'moral and fair society'," MLK Vigil 2019. (January 24, 2019).

"Here's how Middle Tennessee is honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. today," WTVF. (January 21, 2019).

UNIVERSITY AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Senate, History Department Representative. (April 2026 – present).

Keynote Speaker, MTSU: Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. (January 12, 2023).

Chair, Black History Month & Distinguished Lecture Fund. "Cornel West," (February 24, 2022).

Faculty Member, MLK Vigil Committee. (November 15, 2018 – present).

Black History Month: Faculty Member, Black History Month. (August 21, 2018 – present).

Chair, Black History Month & Distinguished Lecture Fund. "Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield and Bishop William Barber," (February 24, 2021).

Chair, Black History Month & Distinguished Lecture Fund. "Roland Martin," (February 24, 2020).

Facilitator, Black History Month & Distinguished Lecture Fund. (November 2020 – February 2021).

Judge, History Day. (February 2020).

Chair, Black History Month & Distinguished Lecture Fund. "Jackie Oliver: PBS Documentary" (October 1, 2019 – February 2020).

Facilitator and Organizer for Distinguished Lecture, Phi Alpha Theta, History Department, Black History Month, Distinguished Lecture. (October 2019 – February 11, 2020).

Keynote Speaker, MTSU: Intercultural and Diversity Affairs. (January 12, 2019).

COLLEGE SERVICE

At-large position, CLA Curriculum Committee. (August 1, 2021 – present).

Assistant, Teagle Foundation, Cornerstone: Learning for Living. (October 30, 2020 – present).

Faculty Member, General Education. (August 2020 – present).

College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee (August 2019 – 2024).

DEPARTMENT SERVICE AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Committee Member, Museum Studies Tenured Search Committee. (March 2023 – May 2023).

Committee Member, FTT Search Committee. (March 2023 – May 2023).

Committee Member, FTT Search Committee. (March 2022 – June 2022).

Committee Member, FTT Search Committee. (November 2021 – December 2021).

Committee Member, FTT Search Committee. (March 2021 – May 2021).

CLA Representative, Work Group. (October 31, 2020 – present).

Liaison, Department Tenure and Promotion. (August 27, 2019 – present).

Committee Member, General Education. (August 21, 2019 – present).

DEPARTMENT SERVICE AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Phi Alpha – Kappa Xi. (August 1, 2022 – present).

Faculty Advisor, NAACP: Youth and College Division. (August 1, 2021 – present).

DEPARTMENT SERVICE AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Faculty Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta – Pi Sigma. (August 1, 2019 – August 2021).

Graduate Committee, Graduate Comprehensive Exam. (August 21, 2018 – May 5, 2019).

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Religious Affairs Committee Chair, NAACP	2021– Current
Board of Directors Chair, Wee Care Day Care	2021–Current
Chapter President, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc	2023–2025
Keynote Speaker, NAACP: Martin Luther King Breakfast Banquet	January 17, 2025
Head Organizer and Facilitator: City Town Hall for Mayor and Council Person Seat	January 2022
Organizer, Tennessee Historical Society, Murfreesboro, TN.	2020 –2021
Chair, Early Head Start Murfreesboro: Wee Day Care, Murfreesboro, TN.	2020 – 2021
Lecture, Alpha Kappa Alpha – Colloquium, Murfreesboro, TN.	March 25, 2019
Guest Speaker, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, Murfreesboro, TN.	February 21, 2019
Organizer for Black History Celebration: African Methodist Episcopal Church	February 2019
Organizer, Distinguished Lecture: MTSU, <i>Always in Season</i>,	February 2019
Guest Speaker, Lee Chapel A.M.E. Church, Nashville, TN.	October 19, 2018
Student Director, Board of Directors, Decatur Cooperative Ministry	2008–2010

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Handling and Processing Researcher, Digitization Department	2014–2015
The National Archives, Washington, D.C.	
Graduate Research Assistant, History Department	2012–2013
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida.	
OPS Research Assistant, Office of Assessment	2011–2013
Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida.	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion, AAR, National, (2018 – present).
American Historical Association, AHA, National, (2017 – present).
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (2020–present)
Florida Historical Society, FHS, State, (2017 – present).
The Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc., SCAASI, Regional, (2017 – present).
The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc., ASALH, International, (2015 – present).
African Methodist Episcopal Church, AME, International, (2011 – present).

Aaron M. Treadwell, Ph. D.

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Director of Africana Studies
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CONTACT REFERENCE #1

Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.
dennis.c.dickerson@vanderbilt.edu
615-218-9842 (Mobile)
615-343-4329 (Office)

Relationship: Vanderbilt Research Partner

CONTACT REFERENCE #2

Teresa Fry Brown, Ph.D.
teresa.brown@emory.edu
(404) 727-4436 (Office)

Relationship: Emory Advisor, Post-Graduate Research Adviser

CONTACT REFERENCE #3

Paul R. Dotson
pdotso1@lsu.edu

Relationship: Chief Editor Louisiana State University Press