

The Christian Courier

Published by the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship

“The Literary Voice of the National Lectureship”

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May 2018 Lectureship Edition

Ministers’ Institute Conference (MIC) Undergoes Name Change “W. F. Washington Theological Institute”



At the Churches of Christ National Lectureship Advisory Committee meeting held on the afternoon of June 6, 2017, in Atlanta, Georgia, it was stated by Dr. Harvey M. Jackson that the “Ministers’ Institute Conference” would undergo a name change at the beginning of January 2018.

According to Dr. Jackson, it was unanimously decided by the Regional Coordinators, the name would be changed in order to reflect the legacy of its founder. As a result, the MIC is now to be known as the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute.”

The Institute has proven itself across the years to be an invaluable resource for all gospel preachers, church leaders, and students of the Scripture. However, it is necessary and imperative that the legacy of Dr. W. F. Washington be embraced and preserved for generations that will follow.

Many younger preachers in the African American Church of Christ today are unfamiliar with the past contributions of pioneer preachers such as R. N. Hogan, J. S. Winston, Levi Kennedy, Jr., John Henry Clay, G. E. Steward, G. P. Holt, John O. Williams and many others. Unfortunately, we have no institutions of higher learning bearing the names of these men who blazed the wilderness trail of our theological experiences.

For example, Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee,

derives its name from A. G. Freed and N. B. Hardeman. In addition, David Lipscomb University which is located in Nashville, Tennessee, is named after David Lipscomb. Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, is named after George Pepperdine. Also, Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, received its name from James A. Harding.

Therefore, it is both appropriate and justifiable to rename the MIC to the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” in recognition of its legendary

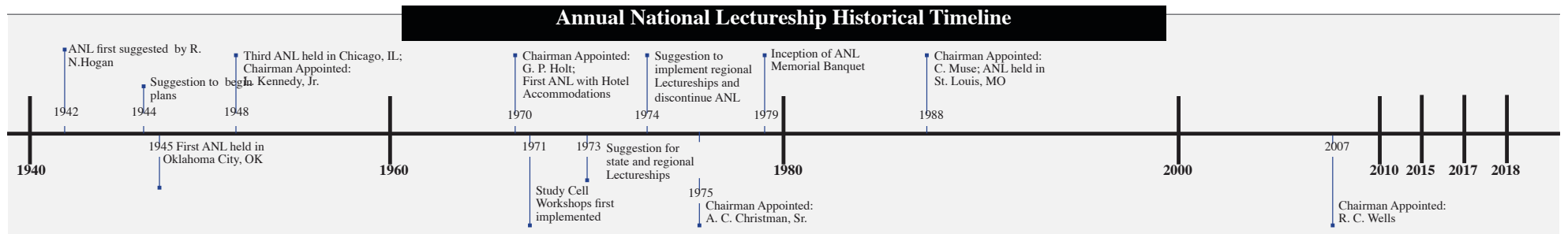
founder Dr. W. F. Washington. The objective of the Institute is to bring together men and women of God who share like precious faith.

We believe the Bible is the inerrant, irrefutable, indispensable, inspired Word of God and the sole authority in all matters of religious doctrine.

In keeping with our motif, the Institute examines biblical models and theological precepts that positively impacts New Testament Christians.

Sermonic expositions include high noon chapel addresses, evening vespers, collaborative reflective seminarian presentations, and the prestigious Wednesday evening “Honor Banquet.” With this in mind and based upon the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus Christ at Calvary, we humbly solicit your presence each year at the annual “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” which convenes in the city of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Annual National Lectureship Historical Timeline



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“W. F. Washington Theological Institute” Establishes Partnership With New York Theological Seminary of New York City

NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A partnership in collaboration with New York Theological Seminary to offer a Certificate Program in Christian Ministry online has been established with the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute.” This is a one-year intensive non-degree program for ordained ministers, people who are in leadership positions within the church, and anyone seeking additional in-depth knowledge of the Scripture.

New York Theological Seminary of New York City is a “non-denominational” institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) of the United States and Canada and chartered by the New York State Board of Regents. ATS accreditation is considered by many to be the “gold standard” among theological seminaries and faith-based institutions.

Potential students should note that only seminaries which are ATS accredited are eligible for federally subsidized student loans. For detailed and specific information contact Dr. Lucy Cano, CP Director at Lcano@nyts.edu or (212) 870-1232. You may also contact Dr. Harvey M. Jackson, National Coordinator of the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” and Minister of the Lampton Street Church of Christ in Mound Bayou, MS, at (662) 719-1415.

Instructional Deliverables:

Each of the online instructors for this intensive one-year Christian Ministry Certificate Program offered by the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” through New York Theological Seminary are academically qualified and credentialed Church of Christ Ministers. The tenets of New Testament doctrine will always remain paramount in our pedagogical engagement and theological convictions as it relates to the inspired Word of God.

We simply have been able to obtain accreditation from one of the most prestigious accrediting agencies in the United States and Canada. ATS is recognized by the U. S. Department of Education, the Commission on Accrediting, and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). It is equivalent to regional and national accreditation in the United States which includes the following:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges
- Higher Learning Commission
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges
- Distance Education Accrediting Commission



The Association of Theological Schools

Abbreviated List of Distinguished Seminaries and Divinity Schools Accredited by ATS

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
Harding School of Theology
Harvard University Divinity School
Hazelip School of Theology of Lipscomb University
Hood Theological Seminary
Howard University School of Divinity
Knox Theological Seminary
McCormick Theological Seminary of Chicago
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School
Freed-Hardeman University School of Theology

New York Theological Seminary
Notre Dame Seminary
Shaw University Divinity School
Union Theological Seminary
United Theological Seminary
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities
University of Chicago Divinity School
Vanderbilt University Divinity School
Yale University Divinity School
Abilene Christian University School of Theology

New York Theological Seminary
W. F. Washington Theological Institute

*“Re-envisioning Theological Education
for the 21st Century”*



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

"The Dream Lives On" African American Churches of Christ National Lectureship Serving the Brotherhood Since 1945



G. P. Bowser
1874 – 1950



R. N. Hogan
1902 – 1997



J. S. Winston
1906 – 2001



Levi Kennedy, Jr.
1899 – 1970



G. E. Steward
1906 – 1979

African American Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship

Although each of the pioneers shown above have been called to rest, the National Lectureship held among African American churches of Christ still continues. The objective is to teach God's Word on various

subjects and enjoy good fellowship (Steward, 1974). In every generation there have been issues among a few brethren regarding the Lectureship and its solvency. Such was the case in the era of R. N. Hogan and the same can be witnessed today.

Furthermore, there is only ONE Annual National Lectureship that is "validated" among a consensus of African American churches of Christ whose Chairman is Dr. R. C. Wells of New York City. Any other "so-called" National Lectureship construed by men

who seek to create division within the African American Church of Christ is unacceptable and should be avoided.

"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"

“W. F. Washington Theological Institute” National Staff Coordinators

W.F. Washington, Ph.D., Founder and President
 Harvey M. Jackson, Ph.D., National Coordinator
 Gloria Butler, National Women's Conference Coordinator
 Lynne Connor, Ph.D., National Program Director

Harvey M. Jackson, Ph.D.
 National Coordinator

Regional Staff Coordinators

Dr. Steven N. Thompson, Sr., Milwaukee, WI	Dr. Jeff Caruthers, Jr., Winston-Salem, NC
David C. Penn, Ph.D., Chicago, IL	Cecil Herndon, Houston, TX
Leroy Butler, Jr., Valdosta, GA	Dr. Shelton Gibbs, III, Dallas, TX
Dr. Orpheus J. Heyward, Atlanta, GA	Dr. Luis R. Lugo, Sr., Tampa, FL
DonBurnell Holly, Memphis, TN	Dr. Olu Shabazz, New York City, NY
Samuell Pounds, Winter Haven, FL	



Practical Intent and Guidance

- Participate in Plenary and Fiat Lux Workshops and Seminars
- Gain Insight into 21st Century Church Administration
- Network with Men of God from Across the Nation
- Engage in a Christian Atmosphere Where the Bible is Respected
- Interactive Seminarian Sessions for Ministers Only
- Instructive Sessions for Church Leaders Only

Standard Features of the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute”

- Evening Vespers With Powerful Gospel Preaching
- Enhancing Women’s Division Program
- Wednesday Evening “Honor Banquet” and Ministerial Awards
- Interactive Seminarian Sessions for Ministers Only

“Emphasizing Truth and Exposing Error”

The “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” is hosted by the New Golden Heights Church of Christ in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Institute

convenes annually during the third week of January each year to further the cause of Jesus Christ and to encourage gospel preachers in their work. We firmly believe the force

of Matthew 16:18 to be as poignant and powerful in its application today as it was when spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ our Sovereign Savior.

As a result, three truths emerge from this divine declaration: 1) Revelation, 2) Identification and 3) Authorization.

“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“The Christian Courier Remembers a Great Soldier” Dr. Arnelious Crenshaw, Jr. October 27, 1949 – August 28, 2017

Funeral services were held on September 6, 2017, for the late Dr. Arnelious Crenshaw in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Dr. Crenshaw served as Senior Minister of the Northeast Church of Christ in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for a period of more than 32 years. With the Lord’s guidance, he was able to lead a congregation which models the mandate of Jesus Christ by ministering to the spirit, body and soul of each individual person.

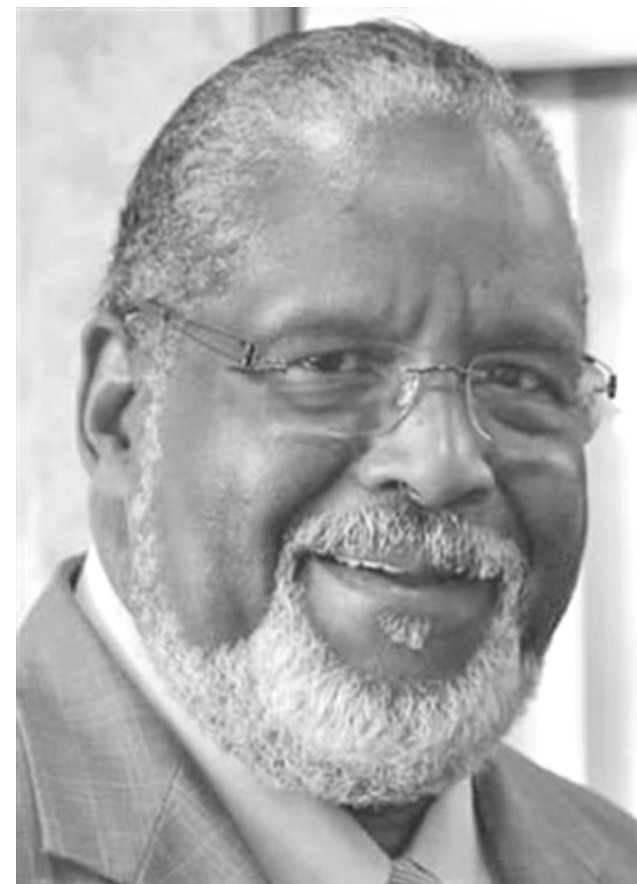
Dr. Crenshaw served as Chairman of the Board of Central Urban which developed a \$6.3M, 32-unit affordable housing complex in the historical John F. Kennedy neighborhood of Oklahoma City. Furthermore, his keen sense of vision and foresight served as the catalyst for the

acquisition of 87 acres of prime real estate on the I-35 corridor that will be used to enhance to lives of residents across the greater Oklahoma City area.

The vast contributions of the late Dr. A. C. Crenshaw, Jr., coupled with his compassionate influence throughout Oklahoma and across the nation enabled him to receive numerous accolades. As a Regional Coordinator for the “W. F. Washington Theological Institute” A. C. Crenshaw was presented with the distinguished “Humanitarian Service Award” by Dr. W. F. Washington.

Dr. Arnelious C. Crenshaw, Jr., was indeed a student of the Scripture and a “Defender of the Faith.” He along with his wife, Dollie of 48 years, have four adult children and six grandchildren. We ask that you keep the Northeast Church of Christ and the entire Crenshaw family in your prayers. *“Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty*

and dreadful, for thou are not so; For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me...”



Mission Statement and Platform of the *Christian Courier*

The *Christian Courier* is a bi-annual publication established in the year 2012 by the Churches of Christ Annual National Lectureship. The overall and fundamental objective of the *Courier* is to share relevant information which pertains to the National Lectureship in particular and the African American Church of Christ in general.

Vision Statement and Intent of the *Christian Courier*

It is the visionary intent of the *Christian Courier* to publish articles that reflect sound biblical doctrine and those which emphasize the following frameworks:

- Theological foundations impacting New Testament doctrine and biblical interpretation.
- Historical perspectives pertaining to selected individuals and current issues in Christian ministry.
- Empirical and quantitative research that furthers our understanding of sound ministry practice.
- Acknowledgment of past and present ministerial contributions on behalf of the visible kingdom.
- Compassionate efforts performed by various individuals to help heal the hurts of humanity.

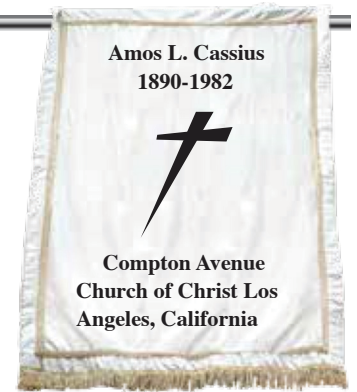
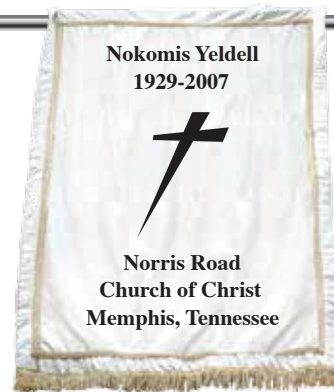
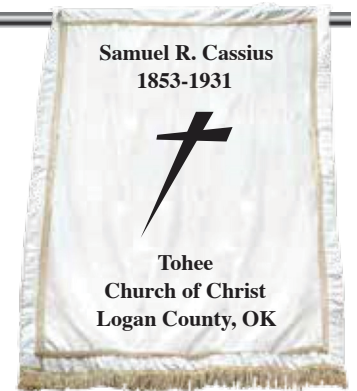
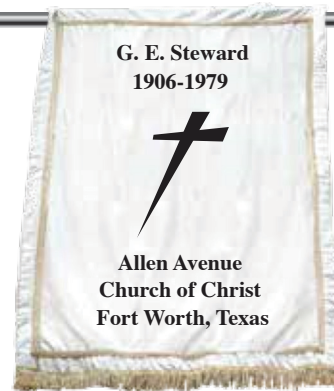
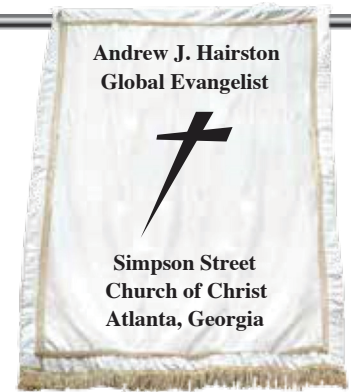
Let it be understood that the *Courier* does not promote any specific policies or ideologies that conflict with the Word of God. The Bible is our only standard of measurement in matters relating to religious faith and practice. Therefore, all articles submitted to the *Christian Courier* for publication should be thought-provoking, trustworthy, insightful and engaging. The editorial staff reserves the right to refuse any articles for publication in the *Christian Courier* that does not meet these standards set forth.

Christian Courier Contributing Staff Writers:

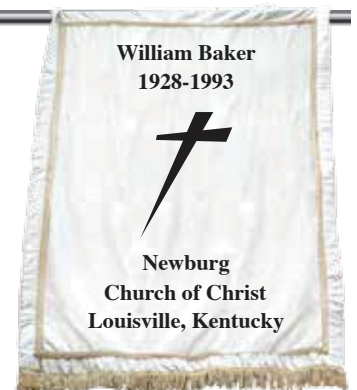
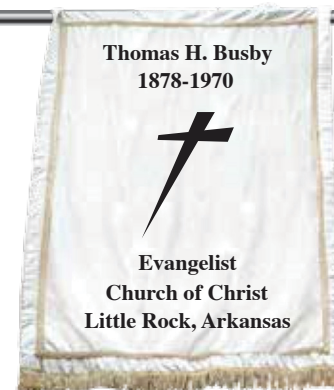
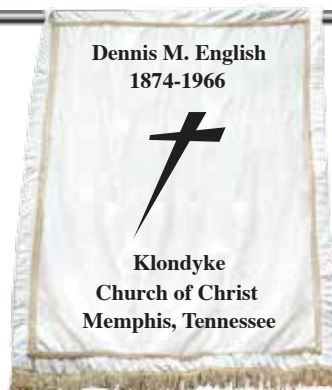
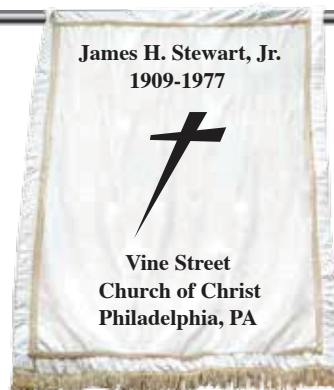
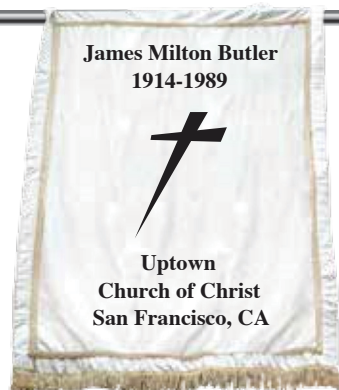
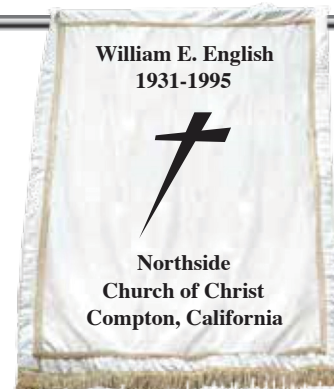
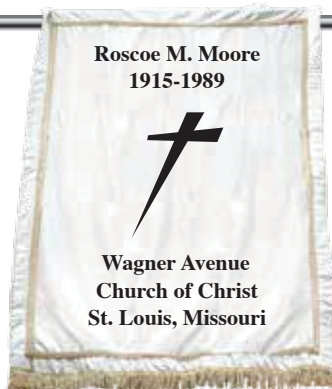
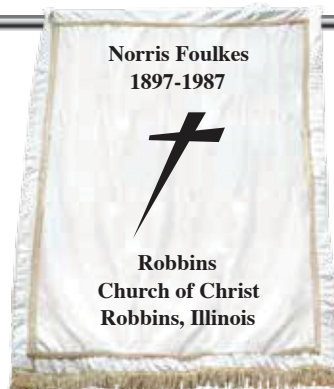
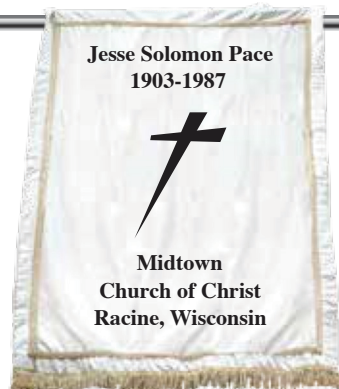
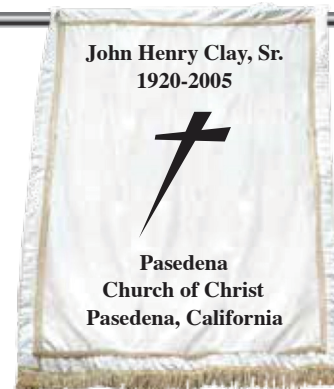
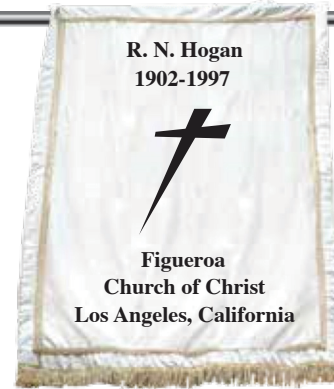
W. F. Washington, Ph.D. | Dr. R. C. Wells | David C. Penn, Ed.S., Ph.D. | Dr. Eugene Lawton
Jefferson R. Caruthers, Jr. | Samuell Pounds | Dr. Harvey M. Jackson | DonBurnell Holly
Willie L. Rupert, Jr. | Conley Gibbs, Jr. | Dr. Steven N. Thompson, Sr. | Dr. Luis R. Lugo [Next Edition]

“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?”



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

Churches of Christ 74th Annual National Lectureship Hosted by Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The 74th Annual National Lectureship will be hosted by the Triad Cities of North Carolina. We look forward to a great 2018 Lectureship experience with Dr. Jefferson R. Caruthers, Jr., Minister of the Carver Road Church of Christ in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, serving as host.

The general theme which has been selected is entitled “Runners, to Your Marks! Expositions on the Race by Faith” with exhortations taken from the Hebrew epistle (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

Those who were the first recipients of the Hebrew letter understood that the race by faith was a race different from all others. They also understood that the rewards from this race are unparalleled, incomparable, and eternal. The runners of the race by faith today are invited to their marks in order to begin whatever race has been appointed to unto them. The race by faith undoubtedly involves many obstacles, events, difficulties, hardships, trials and circumstances.

Presenters at the 2018 National Lectureship will help train, teach, and equip runners for their individual challenges.

The city and scene for this event are suited to prepare everyone for their continued journeys. There will be involvement opportunities for the young and senior, experienced and novice, male and female.

The environment and activities will provide every participant with an opportunity to reflect on spiritual growth and to come to know fellow faith athletes better through social interaction and Christian fellowship. Prepare now to hear the clarion call “Runners, to Your Marks!”

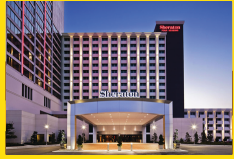


Dr. R. C. Wells
National Lectureship
Advisory Committee Chairman

2018 CHURCHES OF CHRIST NATIONAL LECTURESHIP
MAY 19-24

Runners, To Your Marks!
EXPOSITIONS ON THE RACE BY FAITH
In the Exhortation to the Hebrews
(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Hosted By:
The Church of Christ on Carver Road
(Winston-Salem, NC)
with the
Churches of Christ of the Triad
(Greensboro, High Point and
Winston-Salem, North Carolina)



Koury Convention Center
of the Sheraton at Four Seasons
\$139.00 (Parking Included)
3121 W Gate City Blvd
Greensboro, North Carolina 27407
888-627-8062 Reservations
336-292-9161 Hotel

“Runners, to Your Marks!” Lectureship Information

- Regular Registration \$185.00 (August 2017 – April 1, 2018)
- Late Registration \$225.00 (After April 2, 2018)
- Koury Convention Center of the Sheraton at Four Seasons
Single / Double \$139.00 (Parking Included)
3121 W. Gate City Blvd.
Greensboro, North Carolina 27407
- (888) 627-8062 – Reservations
- (336) 292-9161 – Hotel

“Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God’s throne.”

(Hebrews 12:1, 2 – Holman Christian Standard Bible)

“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

“Remembering the Voice from a Past Pioneer” The Late John O. Williams

John Oscar Williams was born on April 19, 1910, in Vidalia, Georgia, to John Henry and Annie Williams. He received his formal education at both Vidalia Industrial School and Magnolia High School in Valdosta, Georgia. In the year 1930, John O. Williams married Gertrude Jones of Valdosta, Georgia, and to this union they were blessed with one daughter. Sister Gertrude Jones Williams passed away on December 19, 1982.

In the summer of 1931, while attending a gospel meeting held in Valdosta by the late Marshall Keeble, Brother Williams accepted Christ and was baptized. With the encouragement of Brother Luke Miller the local evangelist, John O. Williams began his ministerial career which spanned for over fifty-seven years. He traveled extensively with brothers Miller and Keeble during tent meetings throughout the South in the capacity of a song leader and Bible reader.

John O. Williams served churches of Christ in the states of Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Michigan, Ohio, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. He was also in attendance at the very first National Lectureship that occurred in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1945.

The interest in Christian education by Evangelist John Oscar Williams was demonstrated in the fact that he was a member of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Christian College in Terrell, Texas, a staff writer for the Christian Echo, and a consultant for many gospel preachers across the brotherhood both young and aged. Having retired from active pulpit ministry in the year 1982, Evangelist John Oscar Williams passed away on March 7, 1988, while in Bradenton, Florida. At the 1988 National Lectureship held in St. Louis, Missouri, it was determined that the National Lectureship Banquet would be named as the “John O. Williams Memorial Banquet.”



“Leadership Development” by John O. Williams Excerpt Taken from the 21st Annual National Lectureship Kansas City, Missouri – April 1965

Master of ceremonies, fellow laborers in Christ, ladies and gentlemen and friends. I would like to thank Bro. Marion V. Holt who comes from a fine lineage of gospel preachers and church workers for this opportunity. The subject which I have been assigned is “Leadership Development.”

One of the greatest problems facing the Church today is a severe shortage of developed leaders. So the time has come for all of us to look at the facts before us and consider what steps to take in order to meet the problem.

As the Church continues to grow, it is expected that preachers become better qualified more than ever before for their work. The day has passed when a man with

little preparation can put a few mere thoughts together and manage to occupy the pulpit with any degree of success. In short, we want good preaching and teaching.

Gospel preachers and teachers need to know the Bible first and foremost. They also need to be acquainted with church history and the false doctrines of men which seek to win the minds of men all over the world.

The gospel preacher needs to be informed so that he can tell others how Christ is the answer to the problems of mankind just as Paul could quote the Athenians from their own stoic writers in his sermon on Mars Hill.

May I therefore suggest to this great assembly certain steps which can be taken to develop leadership. First, we must examine our own conscience and

attitude to make sure we are not at fault through jealousy and pride. Are you one of the many incompetent church leaders who occupy a position just because you were here first?

The day has passed when a man with little preparation can put a few mere thoughts together and manage to occupy the pulpit with any degree of success.

Are you afraid that you might be soon forgotten and lose your identity? Have you refused to yield an assignment to someone who can do a better job than you? This kind of attitude has sucked the life blood out of many congregations.

Peter says “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and all hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (I Peter 2:1, 2).

Secondly, it is important for the current leaders to teach those who are aspiring for leadership what biblical leadership is and what it is not. It is a fact that many men have an erroneous understanding of what the Bible says about local church leadership.

Third, preachers of today should spend precious time teaching men the core doctrine and essential precepts of New Testament church government.

“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

Biblical leadership is not predicated upon materialistic values. It is on the contrary based on spiritual principles.

Perhaps it would be good if we taught more on the subject "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

Gospel preachers and teachers need to know the Bible first and foremost.

"Fourth, leaders should look for opportunities to counsel young men who show potential leadership ability. This will give them encouragement and increase their leadership desires.

A fifth suggestion is that leaders of congregations should carefully examine the material used in their leadership training classes in addition to the publisher.

Not all material written on the subject agrees with our doctrinal position of church governance.

Therefore, it is necessary and essential for leaders to use leadership sources that embrace New Testament principles.

Finally, a follower never precedes the leader. We must do nothing as far as worship or our service without the Master's precept or example (II John 9). Let us walk in His footsteps.

Therefore, it is necessary and essential for leaders to use leadership sources that embrace New Testament principles.

Christ is the matchless leader of all mankind. When we follow Him, we will then become like Him. When we follow Him, we are instilled with qualities of a worthy leader.

We learn to lead and develop men when we learn to follow the risen Redeemer of men.



"Know Thyself" – Identifying Your Spiritual Genetics



Temperament Therapy allows people to better understand themselves and their relationship to God. The psalmist says "I praise thee because I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14). Temperament Counseling/Therapy begins by first identifying your unique temperament (a/k/a 'spiritual Genetics').

Traditionally speaking, four temperaments are recognized in the domain of socio-emotional and cognitive therapy. These four include Melancholy, Sanguine, Choleric and Phlegmatic. In 1981, the National Christian Counselors Association developed a therapeutic procedure based on Scripture and subsequently identified a fifth temperament called the Supine.

The National Christian Counselors Association (N.C.C.A.) is an educational and training organization designed for potential Christian counselors. The Association includes Ministers, Professional Christian counselors, testing specialists, medical doctors, attorneys and educators. The staff of the Association has committed themselves to the Lord Jesus Christ and believes that counseling is vain unless it is founded upon and directed by the Word of God.

The main purpose of the N.C.C.A. is to equip Pastors and Christians who embrace the call of God to provide biblical counseling. N.C.C.A. Certification and Licensing is not to be confused or identified with state licensing. It is intended for individuals who have a desire to practice as a "servant of the Church" rather than as an "agent of the state." The curriculum and programs of the N.C.C.A. include:

- Certified Pastoral Counselor (non-degreed)
- Licensed Pastoral Counselor (holds a Bachelors degree)
- Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor (holds a Masters degree)
- Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor-Advanced Certified (holds a Doctorate degree)

An invitation is extended for you to become a member of one of the largest educational and training associations of Christian Counselors in the world. For detailed information please visit www.ncca.org in reference to obtaining Licensed Clinical Pastoral Counselor credentials.



"One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism"

A Chicago Response Regarding the “Mutated” National Church of Christ Lectureship (Not to be Confused with the “Historical” Churches of Christ National Lectureship)

“When Silence Becomes Betrayal” by David C. Penn, Ed.S., Ph.D.

Often the time arrives when a reply must be given to situations which are deemed to be detrimental towards those of whom it adversely affects. As ambassadors of the “faith once delivered” and agents of the Sovereign Savior, it is imperative to address circumstances which have a negative impact on the visible Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was correct when he articulated in his seminal address entitled “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence” given on April 4, 1967 (one year before his assassination), “There comes a time when silence is betrayal...”

With this thought in mind and appertaining to the ethos, logos, and pathos, relative to the noun “silence” underscored by Dr. King (the absence or omission of expressed concern), we have chosen to elaborate on the objective of this requisite précis.

A Critical Reality

In the October 2015 Special Edition of the *Christian Courier* newspaper, **Dr. R. C. Wells who serves as Advisory Committee Chairman for the Churches of Christ National Lectureship** and Minister Emeritus of the Harlem Church of Christ in New York City, he authored an extensive commentary entitled “An Attempted Second National Lectureship Among African American Members of Churches of Christ.” This article was in reference to H. Clay Williams and several of his supporters who elected

to initiate “another lectureship” for their own personal benefit and aggrandizement. In deference to attending and having fellowship with the “historically accepted” Churches of Christ National Lectureship (which has been in existence since 1945), these men have thus created a “mutated aberration” of the “Churches of Christ National Lectureship” under the guise of “National Church of Christ Lectureship” (NCOCL).

The event orchestrated by these men is advertised to be “A National Lectureship for churches of Christ that is focused on promoting unity among brethren in sound doctrine and practice.” However, the above statement alone is a misnomer and contradictory to what has been demonstrated by this cohort of insurgent rabble rousers. Unity among brethren can only be achieved when men are willing to exhibit the “mind of Christ” and collaborate collectively about their differences whether they are “matters of opinion” or “matters of doctrine.”

For the record, we have at least three major venues among African American Churches of Christ wherein H. Clay Williams and his sycophants are invited to attend for the purpose of exploring biblical precepts that will foster unity. These events are the “historically accepted” National Lectureship, Southwestern Christian College Lectureship, and the W. F. Washington Theological Institute (formerly known as the Ministers’ Institute Conference).

Nevertheless, this group refuses to present themselves in a spiritually oriented dialogue and ethically discuss their concerns. Conversely, they would rather hide behind “Facebook” and instigate venomous diatribes towards other men of God who do not concur

with their imbecilic assertions labeling them as “heretics.” Does this type of contemptible behavior promote the biblical concept of “...unity among brethren?” Absolutely not!

A Crucial Request:

Multiple letters were written by Dr. R. C. Wells to the leader of this faction and published by the *Christian Courier* requesting a meeting to resolve this matter of creating “another lectureship.” As stated by Dr. Wells:

“As an independent outsider, it seems to me that unity is the road we should travel, not division; peace is the avenue we should pursue, not disharmony; and the first item on any agenda between brethren is that of discussion. We must sit at the table of discussion and be content to smoke the peace pipe of examination of any and all issues. We should band together for a better, brighter, and greater Lectureship...”

“Let’s get together and let’s talk. Let us walk the high road of peace rather than the low road of division. Let us work together for harmony. Let us work together for peace. Let us work together for a greater, better, more productive and prosperous Lectureship. I propose that we all get together at an agreed place and time and sit down together and work out any problems which may currently exist between us. Agree upon a scriptural decision and implement it with everyone leaving the meeting in harmony. Let us be determined to try this approach and let us see if this works.”

Absent from receiving a reply to his initial request, Dr. Wells composed and forwarded a second letter which reads: “This is my second attempt to contact you through the medium of



**Dr. David C. Penn, Senior Minister
Robbins Church of Christ
Robbins, IL**

correspondence. Obviously, my first attempt was totally unsuccessful... I offered you and the group you represent, the alternative of discussing the issues as brethren... It is still my personal conviction that discussion is the best approach and ultimately the best solution.

“However, obviously your opinion is different... Your lack of concern for the unity of our brotherhood, the people to whom we minister and the fellowship of the Church, appear secondary to your ultimate agenda of dividing our brotherhood by starting a second Lectureship, when we tragically do not adequately and consistently support the one which currently exists...”

“In my first correspondence, I listed my cell phone number asking that you call me. Since I have not heard from you, I assume you do not accept my suggestion of sitting down discussing the issues which you believe divide us.

This leaves me with no alternative but to 'MARK' you (Romans 16:17) and those you represent.

"Therefore, this correspondence is designed to officially notify you that as of the above date [September 7, 2015], you and those who are currently working with you to start a second Lectureship amid churches of Christ are 'MARKED' and should be 'AVOIDED' (Romans 16:17).

To display such a flagrant attitude, dismissing the grand opportunity to share your concerns with interested persons who are willing to hear you, demonstrate ruthless spiritual arrogance... Please Stop, Cease, Desist, and rethink this matter of a second Lectureship. Let's discuss the matter; it is really the better and the best way.

*Yours very truly,
R. C. Wells, Chairman
Churches of Christ Annual
National Lectureship*

Also, according to information provided on the website of this "metamorphosed lectureship," a "laundry list" of so-called "doctrinal guidelines" is given which inhibits the active participation of gospel preachers. These prohibitions include but are not limited to the following:

- Men who refer to themselves as "Dr." in worship services
- Questionable Bible translations
- Inappropriate ministerial attire such as robe wearing and collars

The sonorous question becomes: "Are these proscriptions 'matters of doctrine' based upon the hermeneutics of inspired Scripture, or do they foster an 'argumentative interpolation?'"

For example, what is the definition of "inappropriate attire?" Where in the Scripture is a gospel preacher "commanded"

to wear a specific type of apparel or garment? In addition, does the Bible preclude a gospel preacher who has received the degree of "Doctor" from being regarded as such, or is using this designation in worship services a "matter of congregational and personal preference?" What is the definition of "questionable Bible translations?" Better still, what is a "non-questionable" Bible translation? Is the inference given by this group of "malcontented provocateurs" that we are constrained to embrace the "King James Version" of the Bible only?

Truthfully speaking, the King James Version (which was based upon the *Textus Receptus* which in turn was based upon the Byzantine Text) will never cease to be loved and used because of its dignity and familiarity. On the other hand, textual criticism reveals that variants and interpretive problems can be found within the King

In deference to attending and having fellowship with the "historically accepted" Churches of Christ National Lectureship (which has been in existence since 1945), these men have thus created a "mutated aberration" of the "Churches of Christ National Lectureship" under the guise of "National Church of Christ Lectureship" (NCOCL).

James Version even though they do not affect any essentials of evangelical truth (Metzger, 1964). This writer will admit that one should exercise caution as it pertains to certain translations of the Scripture, but serious students of the Bible should want to use a modern translation which is based upon the best text modern scholarship can establish (Ladd, 1967). So again, what is the definition of "questionable Bible translations?"

A Conclusive Response:

This writer was informed in December 2017 that H. Clay Williams and his entourage are planning to bring their "metamorphosed" hypothesis of a "National Church of Christ Lectureship" (NCOCL) to the Chicago

area in March 2019. As a result, much conversation was shared with Omah C. Smith, Jr., of the West Suburban Church of Christ in Berkeley, Illinois, who has been selected as "host Minister" with the most recent discussion occurring on April 11, 2018.

It was clearly explained that a consensus of gospel preachers who represent African American Churches of Christ in the greater Chicago vicinity are not in favor of this gathering being held the Chicago area because of the brotherhood divisiveness created by its perpetrator and him being "marked" by Dr. Wells. An electronic version of the *Christian Courier* newspaper was also sent to Omah C. Smith, Jr., confirming this fact. His initial response was that he was unaware that H. Clay Williams had been "marked." He then mentioned that he did not know "permission was needed" to host this event in Chicago. It was said by yours truly in response to the statement of Smith:

"It is not a subject of 'permission' but rather a matter of 'cooperation' between preachers. As gospel preachers we always attempt to be cooperative and supportive of one another, especially in regards to brotherhood engagements."

On Monday, April 9, 2018, this writer received a telephone call from H. Clay Williams expressing his concerns about "their lectureship" being held in the Chicago area. The same information was conveyed to him as it relates to a consensus of gospel preachers who represent African American Churches of Christ in the greater Chicago vicinity.

Williams said he asked Omah C. Smith, Jr., if he was sure that he still wanted to host this event in Chicago. Williams said: "I offered him a way out but he (Smith) said we are going to have the 'lectureship' in Chicago."

The sonorous question becomes: "Are these proscriptions 'matters of doctrine' based upon the hermeneutics of inspired Scripture, or do they foster an 'argumentative interpolation?'"

It was then asked to Williams why he would attempt to hold this gathering

in a city where preachers are not receptive to the idea and that would encourage division among the men of God? No direct answer was given to this question.

Summation:

It was recently brought to our attention on April 15, 2018 and April 18, 2018 that a "Withdrawal of Fellowship Letter" was sent out against H. Clay Williams because of his divisiveness and attempts to "sow discord among the brethren."

Furthermore, another letter of "marking" was sent out against Williams because of him "causing divisions contrary to the doctrine of love, fellowship and unity as according to Romans 16:17."

Can he honestly refute that these letters have been dispersed across the entire brotherhood for public consumption? Can he deny without prevarication that these letters "have not been rescinded" and are still in effect?

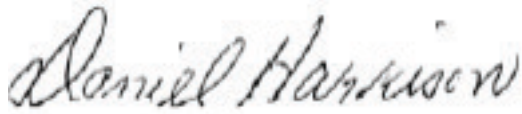
Let it be understood with crystal clarity that a consensus of preachers who represent African American Churches of Christ in the greater Chicago area do not support the "mutated" "National Church of Christ Lectureship."

If this event is held in the Chicago vicinity in March 2019 in spite of our objections or at any prior or future date thereof, another letter will be forthcoming reinforcing our biblical position with regard to those involved.

For more information, please contact Dr. David C. Penn at (708) 466-2145 or Dr. Daniel Harrison at (773) 723-8579.



Chicago Area Preachers/Ministers Who Agree With This Declaration



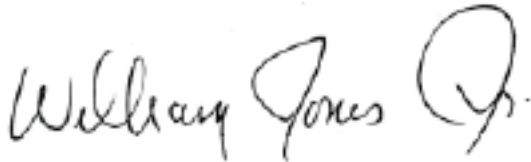
Dr. Daniel Harrison, Senior Minister
Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ – Chicago, IL
National Director Crusade for Christ



Dr. David C. Penn, Senior Minister
Robbins Church of Christ – Robbins, IL
Vice-Chair National Lectureship Executive Committee



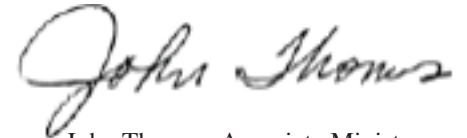
Andre Robinson, Senior Minister
Eastside Church of Christ – Joliet, IL



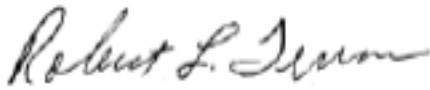
William E. Jones, Jr., Senior Minister
87th Street Church of Christ – Chicago, IL
Chicago Campaign for Christ Director



Robert L. Palmore, Sr., Associate Minister
North Shore Church of Christ – Waukegan, IL



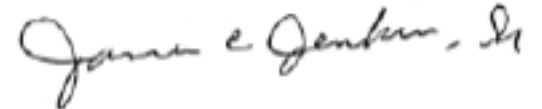
John Thomas, Associate Minister
Sheldon Heights Church of Christ – Chicago, IL



Robert L. Turner, Senior Minister
Monroe Street Church of Christ – Chicago, IL



Gerald Walker, Senior Minister
Maypole Avenue Church of Christ – Chicago, IL



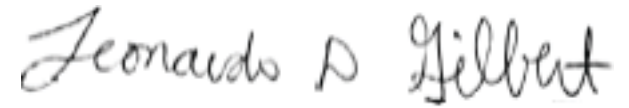
James C. Jenkins, Sr., Senior Minister
Chicago Heights Church of Christ – Chicago Hts. IL



Charles L. Smith, Senior Minister
Colonial Village Church of Christ – Chicago, IL



Terry V. Atwater, Sr., Senior Minister
North Shore Church of Christ – Waukegan, IL



Leonardo D. Gilbert, Senior Minister
Sheldon Heights Church of Christ – Chicago, IL



Franklin Florence II, Senior Minister
Harvey Church of Christ – Harvey, IL
(Per Procuracionem)

DULY NOTED AS OF SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018:

This document was distributed to numerous preachers in a meeting on April 21, 2018, at the Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois. Omah C. Smith, Jr., was invited to this meeting in the same fashion that Dr. Wells invited H. Clay Williams to a meeting; but Smith did not attend.

It was unanimously agreed upon by the Chicago area African American Church of Christ Senior Ministers present at this meeting (inclusive of Associate Ministers) that we will not support a so-called “National Church of Christ Lectureship” (NCOCL) hosted by the West Suburban Church of Christ or any other local Church of Christ which is scheduled to convene March 10-14, 2019, at the Tinley Park Convention Center in Tinley Park, Illinois, at any prior or future date thereof.

Moreover, it was unanimously agreed upon by the Chicago area African American Church of Christ Senior Ministers present at this meeting (inclusive of Associate Ministers) that we concur and uncompromisingly uphold the biblical “MARKING” given by Dr. R. C. Wells in reference to H. Clay Williams and those he represents. Our preeminent priority as preachers of the gospel is to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). Whenever this objective becomes threatened by those who toil in the

Let it be understood with crystal clarity that a consensus of preachers who represent African American Churches of Christ in the greater Chicago area do not support the “mutated” “National Church of Christ Lectureship.”

toxic tillage of dissension and discord by attempting to cultivate the seed of contention among brethren, it is then that our “silence” to these matters of import becomes “betrayal.”

DULY NOTED AS OF THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018:

After much prayer was given in regard to this commentary, we received an electronic letter on Thursday evening, April 26, 2018, from Omah C. Smith, Jr., with the following excerpts:

“Dear Brethren,

I send you greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is with great regret I announce that the West Suburban Church of Christ will no longer serve as host for the 2019 National Churches of Christ Lectureship in Chicago, Illinois.

“As minister of this great congregation, indeed, as a man of God, I cannot, in good conscience, be a part of any organization or event that causes confusion or reflects badly on the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

“We must always remember that we are called to save souls. We should not commit the unforgivable act of leading souls to eternal damnation through

false doctrine and overbearing legalistic tactics. We must find a way to love the ONE true church and each other.”

*Let brotherly love continue.
Omah C. Smith, Jr.
Minister, West Suburban
Church of Christ*



“One Lord... One Faith... One Baptism”

DULY NOTED AS OF SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018:

Another conversation was shared with Omah C. Smith, Jr., on April 28, 2018. The purpose of this dialogue was to reaffirm his electronic letter dated April 26, 2018, stating that neither he nor the West Suburban Church of Christ would serve as host for the proposed 2019 “mutated” “National Church of Christ Lectureship” (NCOCL) in the Chicago area.

It was reiterated strongly by Omah C. Smith, Jr., that the West Suburban Church of Christ will not serve as host. Smith also

Our preeminent priority as preachers of the gospel is to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). Whenever this objective becomes threatened by those who toil in the toxic tillage of dissension and discord by attempting to cultivate the seed of contention among brethren, it is then that our “silence” to these matters of import becomes “betrayal.”

confirmed he was unaware that “Letters of Withdrawal” and “Marking” had been sent out against H. Clay Williams from Church of Christ congregations which are still in effect.

The question then arose as to whether another congregation and Minister in the Chicago vicinity would be selected to assume the role as host? Smith replied that he had no knowledge of this. At the conclusion of the conversation it was said to Smith that the African American Church of Christ preachers who met on Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ are not

in concord with “any congregation” in the Chicago area hosting this event. It was conveyed to Smith that a second “Preachers Meeting” is scheduled for May 5, 2018, at the Chatham-Avalon Church of Christ and he is invited to attend.

DULY NOTED AS OF SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018:

On Sunday afternoon, April 29, 2018, we received information from Omah C. Smith, Jr., that Eddie Taylor (formerly of Chicago) has agreed to serve as “host Minister” for this event with their “lectureship committee” assuming leadership. Eddie Taylor does not even live in the Chicago area and by his own admission he is not the Minister of any congregation.

Given the facts presented, this “mutated” lectureship committee which controls, plans, and appoints a person to serve as “host Minister”

It was reiterated strongly by Omah C. Smith, Jr., that the West Suburban Church of Christ will not serve as host.

who does not live in the area, is NOT the “work of a local Church of Christ.”

No organization or “committee” is authorized by Jesus Christ to do the “work of the Church” except the “Church” itself. As mentioned above, Eddie Taylor is not the Minister of ANY congregation. This matter will be addressed at the appropriate time.

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- Ladd, G. E. (1967).
The New Testament and Criticism.
Grand Rapids, MI:
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The Text of the New Testament. New York, NY:
Oxford University Press.
- Wells, R. C. (2015). *Christian Courier*.
Special Edition VOL 4 Number 3, p. 3.

The 75th Annual National Lectureship is scheduled to convene in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, during the dates of April 21-26, 2019. The Lectureship would like to celebrate and salute Dr. Ralph P. Smith, Sr., who serves as Senior Minister of the Centreville Church of Christ in East St. Louis, Illinois.

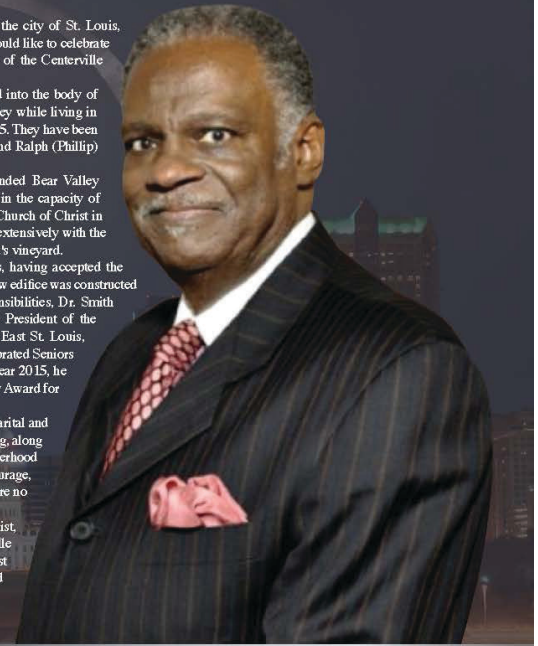
Ralph P. Smith, Sr., is a native of Memphis, Tennessee. He was baptized into the body of Christ in 1959 and mentored in the faith by the late Evangelist Leroy Durley while living in Denver, Colorado. Ralph married the former Effie Trimble in August of 1965. They have been blessed by the Lord with two adult children Francine (Smith) Landrum and Ralph (Phillip) Smith, Jr., six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dr. Smith accepted the call to preach the gospel in 1969 and attended Bear Valley International Bible Institute in Denver, Colorado. He previously worked in the capacity of Associate Minister at the Josephine Street Church of Christ and Littleton Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado. While laboring in Denver, Colorado, Dr. Smith worked extensively with the youth which resulted in over 40 young people actively working in the Lord's vineyard.

In the year 1974, he and his family relocated to Centreville, Illinois, having accepted the position of Senior Minister to the Centreville Church of Christ. In 1985 a new edifice was constructed with a seating capacity of 700. In addition to his many ministerial responsibilities, Dr. Smith serves as Chaplain for the Centreville Police Department and he is the President of the Board of Directors for the “Clyde C. Jordan Senior Citizens Center” in East St. Louis, Illinois. Furthermore, he is the Director of the National Association of Celebrated Seniors (NACS) which serves over a thousand seniors and bridegappars. In the year 2015, he was presented with the “W. E. Washington Theological Institute” Longevity Award for his outstanding work.

As a spiritual adviser and mediator, Dr. Smith avails himself for pre-marital and marriage counseling, suicide prevention, family and bereavement counseling, along with being a gang intervention liaison. He is highly respected by the brotherhood and other faith-based leaders throughout the community as a man of faith, courage, optimism, vision and integrity. He never meets a stranger; if he does, they are no longer strangers after they part.

Ralph P. Smith, Sr., is truly a man of God who loves the Lord Jesus Christ, his family and the Centreville Church of Christ. He brought to the Centreville congregation the motto which they strive to live by: “The Lovinest Church in the Brotherhood.” Because of his unfeigned faith and consecrated commitment to the cross of Christ, a Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon Evangelist Ralph P. Smith, Sr., in 2017 by Midwestern Christian Institute.



Churches of Christ 75th Annual National Lectureship
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“Celebrating the Work of Dr. Ralph P. Smith, Sr.”



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To
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Exploring
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God's Call to
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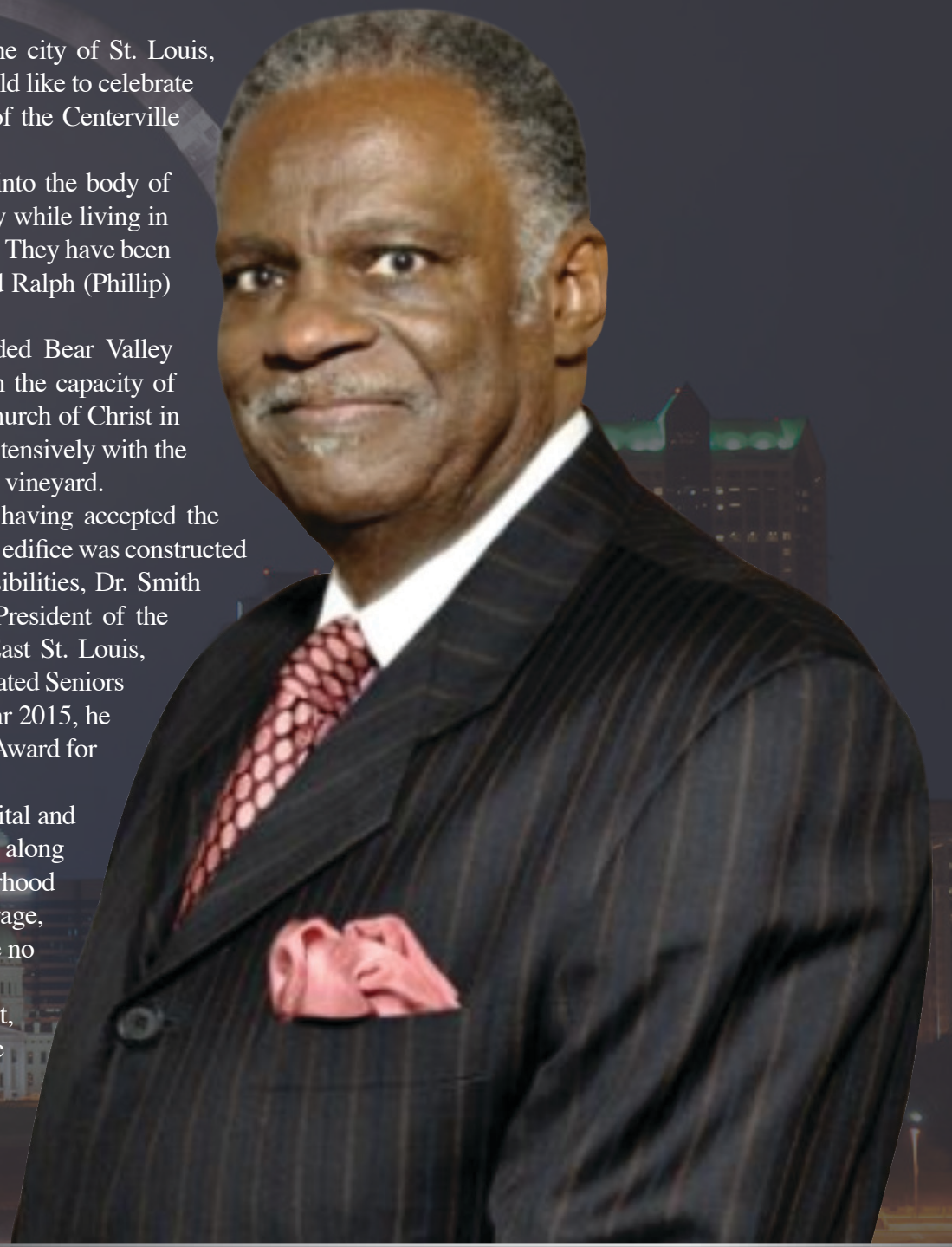
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