

**Pamela R. Lightsey, Ph.D.**  
Curriculum Vitae

Meadville Lombard Theological School  
180 N. Wabash Ave., Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 773.641.4992  
email: [pamelarlightsey@gmail.com](mailto:pamelarlightsey@gmail.com)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/OneNabi>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pamelarlightsey/?hl=en>  
Webpage: <https://www.onenabi.net/>

**Education:**

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Year Degree Awarded</u>
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary	PhD	Theology and Ethics	2005
Gammon Seminary at the ITC	MDiv	Theology and Church History	2001
Columbus State University	BS	Sociology	1998

Dissertation Title: *If Somebody Hits You: Towards a Pan African Perspective of Just War*

**Employment:**

Meadville Lombard Theological School	01/2018 – Present	VP of Academic and Student Affairs, Associate Professor of Contextual Theology
Boston University School of Theology	08/2011- 12/2017	Associate Dean of Community Life and Lifelong Learning, Clinical Assistant Professor of Contextual Theology and Practice
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary	03/2009-08/2011	Associate VP of Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary	01/2007-03/2009	Dean of Students
Southlawn United Methodist Church	07/2001-12/2006	Senior Pastor
St. Mary's Road United Methodist Church	07/1997-07/1999	Assistant Pastor & Student Local Pastor
Department of Defense, USA	08/1980-02/1997	Logistics, Supply & Contracting Officer
United States Army	03/1977-09/1979	Soldier - Honorable Discharge

**Senior Administrative Areas of Expertise:**

Student Affairs – to include recruiting/admissions, financial aid  
Academic Affairs - registrar/student records and faculty  
International Student Visa Status (NAFSA Advisor; Use of SEVIS System)  
Collaborating with International Schools  
Online Distance Education Degree Programs  
Deputy Title IX Responsibilities; Title IX Hearing Officer  
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Deputy  
American with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Policy Reviewer  
Intercultural Competency Development

Strategic Planning  
Budget/Fiduciary Oversight  
Management – 9 staff plus core faculty, affiliate and adjunct professors

**Major Academic Assignments and Administrative Responsibilities:**

Association of Chicago Theological Schools – Secretary and Convener of Deans 2021 - Present

Boston University Cross Campus Challenge Committee (to an intensive interdisciplinary general education experience for all upper-level undergraduates).

Boston University Howard Thurman Center Renovation Committee (to create a detailed plan for the relocation and remodeling of the Center).

President's Leadership Teams of both Garrett-ETS and Meadville Lombard Theological School

**Grant Work:**

Co-Principal Investigator, Lilly Foundation \$50,000 grant (Phase I), Sunday School as Leadership Incubators, March 2021

Wabash Center, Peer Cluster Grant, 2017-2018

Co-Principal Investigator, Lilly Foundation \$250,000 3-year grant, *Stewardship Thinking, Economic Wellbeing, and Reduction of Debt* program at Boston University, Fall 2014

**Selected Awards and Appointments:**

2020 - Present	Appointment - LGBTQ+ Advisory Council to Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago, IL
2020	Morehouse College <i>Collegium of Scholars</i> Inductee
2015	The Bishop's Ecumenical and Interreligious Award for LGBTQ rights and Black Lives Matter advocacy and service on the Pan Methodist Commission.
2002	Key to the City of Columbus, GA - Community service and HIV/AIDS ministry

**Professional Service and Memberships:**

Service:

- Co-chair Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society, 2010 – 2016
- Board of Directors, Reconciling Ministries Network, 2010 – 2016
- Advisory Board, The Soul Repair Project, 2012 – 2016
- National Advisory Board, Revitalizing Urban Ministry Project (AVDF), 2014 – 2016
- Appointed by the Board of Directors of the Asian-Pacific Association of Methodist-related Educational Institutions (APAMEI) as the first North American Liaison Partner - 2015
- Forum for Theological Exploration mentoring Black doctoral students, 2017 - Present

Memberships:

Christ Seminar Member – May 2021 - Present  
Workgroup on Constructive Theology, 2016 –Present  
Society for the Study of Black Religion, 2010 – Present  
American Academy of Religion, 2000 - Present

**Participation in Civic or Social Organizations:**

- Design team for the *2017 Boston Declaration* statement by theologians critiquing the

- injustice set forth by Christian evangelicals.
- Periodic guest on *Basic Black* television commentary series.
- Periodic guest on WUMB radio.
- Pan Methodist Commission
- Episcopal-UMC Dialogue (towards full communion)
- City of Evanston's Mayor's Taskforce on Reduction of Crime, 2010 -2011
- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- LGBTQ+ Advisory Council to Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago, IL, 2020 - Present
- Founder – Blaque Political Collective, 2019

### **Teaching: Primary courses**

- Womanist Theology
- Black Theology
- Queer Theology
- African American Religious History and Theology
- Spirituality and Social Justice Activism in the African American Traditions

### **Research, Creative Work, Publication/Production, Citations:**

#### **Books:**

*Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers. 2015.

*Transforming Service: Reflections of Student Services Professionals in Theological Education*. Editors Shonda R. Jones & Pamela R. Lightsey. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers. 2020.

#### **Book Chapters:**

“I’m Black, I’m Christian, I’m Methodist, I’m Queer Lesbian... Irregardless” in *I’m Black, I’m Christian, I’m Methodist*, eds. Rudy Rasmus and Vance Ross. 2021. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

“Blinking Red: The Escalation of a Militarized Police Force and Its Challenges to Black Communities” in *Feminist Praxis Against U.S. Militarism*. eds. Anne Joh and Nami Kim. Lexington Books. 2019.

“He is Black and We are Queer.” In *Albert B. Cleage Jr and the Legacy of the Black Madonna and Child*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2016.

for women of color scholars who have considered giving up when the church was not enuf in *Black Church Studies: A Twenty-First Century Reader*, eds. Carol B. Duncan and Alton B. Pollard III. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2016.

“Reconciliation,” in Malinda Berry, Peter Heltzel, and Bruce Benson (eds.), *Prophetic Evangelicals: Envisioning a Just and Peaceable Kingdom* (Prophetic Christianity), (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans), 168-77. 2012.

"Proclamation and Embodiment," in Gennifer Benjamin Brooks (ed.), *Black United Methodists Preach!* (Nashville: Abingdon). 2012.

#### **Peer Reviews of My Publications:**

“Review of *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*” by Valerie Bridgeman in *Black*

Theology, 18 May 2017.

American Academy of Religion. Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit. Panel discussion/review of *Our Lives Matter*. 2016.

“A Womanist Theologian Confronts White Privilege and Sex/Gender Bigotry: Pamela Lightsey’s *Our Lives Matter*.” Virginia R. Mollenkott in Christian Feminism Today. 2016.

Citations of My Publications Contained Within the Following:

“Intersex, the Imago Dei, and the Trinity Holding the ‘Paradox of Equality and Difference’ in Tension.” Stephanie A. Budwey. Chapter within, *Vielfalt und Differenz: Intersektionale Perspektiven auf Feminismus und Religion*. eds. Renate Jost, and Sarah Jäger (Hg.) 2017

*The Ground Has Shifted*. Walter Earl Fluker. New York: New York University Press, 2016.

*Engaging Teaching in Theology and Religion*. Renee K. Harrison and Jennie S. Knight. New York: Palgrave MacMillan. 2015.

*African American Psychology*. 3rd edition. Faye Z. Belgrave and Kevin W. Alison, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2014.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Articles, Editorials, Columns, Reviews:

“Jussie Smollett, Believing the Victim, and Deep National Wounds” for Newsweek. February 25, 2019.

“Is Necessary Violence a Just Violence?” in *Syndicate*, vol. 2 (5): 22-26 and “Response to Meagher”, 2015.

“From Voting Rights Act to Today’s DOMA Repeal—LGBT Orgs Are Missing the Rainbow” June 26, 2013. In ReligionDispatches.com

“Making Black History for Gay Rights.” www.washingtonPost.com National, Guest Voices. The Washington Post, 6 Feb. 2013.

“Inner Dictum: A Womanist Reflection from the Queer Realm.” Black Theology Journal 10.3 (2012) 339 – 349. Print

“Methodist Clergy Pledge to Defy Church in Blessing LGBT Unions” June 11, 2011. For ReligionDispatches.com

“Bin Laden’s Death: Redress of a Wrong Suffered” May 2, 2011. In ReligionDispatches.com

“The Eddie Long Scandal: It is About Anti-Homosexuality” Sept 29, 2010. For ReligionDispatches.com

### **Invited Lectures, Seminars, Presentations and Colloquia (selected):**

- 2021 Gilead Compass Initiative at Wake Forest School of Divinity – Panelist -“Black Sexuality, the Church and Living Faith”
- 2021 Colgate Rochester Divinity School – Fall Christian Faith and Life Lecturer “Christian Faith LGBTQIA+”
- 2021 Panelist for Katie G Cannon Womanist Center - “Queer AF: Futuring Womanism and Queer Perspectives”
- 2020 Panelist - Queerness, Spirituality, and Religion
- 2020 Lecturer – University of Wisconsin Osh Kosh
- 2020 Panelist – Union Presbyterian Seminary
- 2020 Q Christian Fellowship – Keynote Address
- 2019 The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries (TFAM UCC) Convocation, morning lecturer
- 2019 Princeton University - Christianity and White Supremacy Conference
- 2018 Children’s Defense Fund’s Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry, featured sermon.
- 2018 The Proctor Conference. Workshop lecture, “The Increasing Militarization of American Police Forces.”
- 2018 Eden Theological Seminary. Spring Convocation Lecturer.
- 2017 Harvard University, Lecturer, at the invitation of the Black Student Association.
- 2017 Co-author, *The Boston Declaration* - signed by over 300 leading scholars and shared over 10k times - condemned white nationalism’s harmful influence in evangelicalism and silence by evangelical Christians on matters related to corruption, discrimination and exploitation.
- 2017 Brite Divinity School, “Disruption: The #BlackLivesMatter Movement and the Moral Imperative for Justice”
- 2016 American Academy of Religion: 1) Religious Institute Unit, panelist, “From the Seminary to the Sanctuary...” 2) Religion, Colonialism and Postcolonialism Unit, roundtable participant discussing “Pedagogy and Black Lives Matter.” 3) Black Liberation Theologies of Disability Unit, roundtable participant discussing “Theological Perspectives of Disabilities within Black Communities and Churches” 4) Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society Unit, respondent to presentations on *Our Lives Matter*.
- 2016 FLUPP, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil annual literary festival, guest panelist, “Investigating the Life and Writings of a Womanist Queer Theologian.”
- 2016 Boston College, respondent, Anti-Blackness and Christian Ethics symposium.
- 2016 Fordham University, conference presenter, “After Obergefell.”

- 2016 Clark Atlanta University, C. Eric Lincoln annual lecture, “Root Workers in an Incessant Social Media Democracy.”
- 2016 Chautauqua Institution, guest lecture, “The Ethical Realities of War.”
- 2016 Cuba, Matanzas Seminary, guest lecture, “The Wisdom from Black Social Justice Activism.”
- 2016 Chicago Theological Seminary, guest lecture for the annual Castaneda Lecture.
- 2016 Vanderbilt University School of Theology, guest lecture, “The Publication of Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology.”
- 2016 Gallaudet University, guest lecture, “Black Lives Matter and Intersectionality.”
- 2016 Temple University and Mother Bethel AME, Black Radical Tradition Conference, guest presenter, “The Black Prophetic Voice in a Morally Broken World.”
- 2016 Claremont School of Theology, guest lecture, “Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 2015 Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, guest lecture, “Public Theology and Social Justice Activism.”
- 2015 St. Ambrose University, conference presentation and workshop, “Stony the Road We Trod: #BlackLivesMatter and the Continual Problem of the Color-Line.”
- 2015 Butler University and the Desmond Tutu Center, guest lecture, “Religion and Race in the African-American Experience.”
- 2015 Boston College, guest lecture, “Social Justice Activism in the era of #BlackLivesMatter.”
- 2015 Syracuse University, guest lecture, “The Impact of Moral Injury on Black Veterans.”
- 2015 Allegheny College, lecture, “The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act.”
- 2015 Boston University, Doctoral Teaching Fellows Seminar, guest lecture: “Attention to Racial, Sexual and Gender Inclusion in Queer Theology.”
- 2015 Belmont University, MLK Lecture
- 2015 Designed and led the National Gathering of Black Scholars in Ferguson – meeting at WellSpring Church
- 2014 New York Annual Conference, *Dr. Bill Perkins Lecture Series*. Presented the inaugural lecture entitled, “The Prophetic Church.”
- 2012 Panelist at the ***Soul Repair Center*** launch event, Brite Divinity School. (Lilly Foundation grant to study the moral impact of war on veterans)

- 2012 American Academy of Religion. Respondent. European Society of Women in Theological Research. Theme: *Beyond Victim and Perpetrator: The Implications of War's Moral Injury for Feminist Theory*. Chicago, IL
- 2012 Boston University, African American Studies Center, *Africans, African Americans and the Abrahamic Religions Symposium*. Lecture, "African Americans, Abrahamic Religions and Social Justice Campaigns."
- 2010 American Academy of Religion. Presenter. Womanist Approaches to Religion and Society. Paper: *Ain't Nothin' An Old Man Can Do Fuh Me But...: Moms Mabley and the Need for Funny During the Civil Rights Movement*. Atlanta, GA
- 2010 Truth Commission on Conscience in War. Expert Witness Testimony: *Religious Understandings of Just War*. The Riverside Church, New York, NY
- 2009 Loyola University, Chicago, IL African American Studies class lecture – *Womanist Queer Theology*
- 2009 American Academy of Religion, Feminist/Womanist Session – Paper *"InnerDictum: A Womanist Reflection from the Queer Realm."* Montreal, Canada
- 2009 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Scholars Panel Work: Providing guidance to the UMC Council of Bishop for their 2009 Episcopal Letter *In Defense of Creation*, Nashville, TN
- 2009 Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL workshop presentation – *African American Women's Spirituality*
- 2008 EnVision - Guest scholar and panelist among over 60 leading evangelicals and mainline Protestant liberals at conference held at Princeton University. The event concluded with the preparation of a statement entitled, "A Declaration on the Common Good."
- 2007 Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA – *Thirkiel-Jones* Lecturer. Presented a 2-day academic lecture occurring during the seminaries annual Founders' Day celebrations. Topic: *Community in This Present Age*