

## CURRICULUM VITAE

Frank A. Thomas  
Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th Miller Professor of Homiletics  
Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration  
Christian Theological Seminary  
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### Background

Born: June 11, 1955, Gulfport, Mississippi  
Spouse: Dr. Joyce Scott Thomas, (married 1977)  
Children: All young adults: Tony and Rachel  
Church: Associated for fifteen years with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Ordained: 1981, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois

### Education

Ph.D. (2008), University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee

Major Fields of Study: Rhetoric and Preaching

D.Min. (1991), United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

Major Fields of Study: Preaching

D.Min. (1986), Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

Major Fields of Study: Development, and Operation of Spiritual Gifts in the Church

MA. (1983), Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois

Major Fields of Study: African-Caribbean Studies

M. Div. (1981), Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois

Concentrations: Pastoral Studies, Homiletics

A. B. (1976), University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Major: Philosophy  
Minor: Religious Studies

### **Professional Experience**

2013-present: Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Preaching and New Testament, Christian Theological Seminary Professor of Preaching and Director of the Academy of Preaching and Celebration

2012 – 1999 Senior Servant, Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, Memphis, Tennessee

1981-1999 Senior Pastor, New Faith Baptist Church, Matteson, Illinois

1976-1984 Supervisor Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Chicago, Illinois

### **Books**

*Preaching As Celebration Digital Lecture Series and Workbook*, (Hope For Life International Press, 2014)

*The Choice: Living Your Passion Inside Out Companion Workbook*, (Hope For Life International Press, 2013)

*The Choice: Living Your Passion Inside Out*, (Hope For Life International Press, 2013)

*They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration in Preaching*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2013 (Revised and Updated from 1997 version).

*American Dream 2.0: A Christian Way Out of the Great Recession*, (Abingdon, Press, 2012)

*The Lord's Prayer in Times Like These*, (Chalice Press, 2002)

*Spiritual Maturity*, (Fortress Press, 2002)

### **Edited Books**

Editor with Martha J. Simmons. *Preaching with Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Preaching from 1750 to Present*, (W.W. Norton, 2010).

## **Chapters in Books**

“Making Music With What You Have Left,” *What’s the Shape of Narrative Preaching?*, ed. Michael Graves and David Schafler (Chalice Press, 2008).

## **Articles in Journals**

“Conflict as Creative Clarity Part I,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 3, No. 2 Spring 2000.

“Conflict as Creative Clarity Part II,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 3, No. 3 Summer 2000.

“An Interview with Michael Eric Dyson, Part I,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 4, No. 2 Spring 2001.

“An Interview with Jesse Louis Jackson,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 4, No. 2 Spring 2001.

“An Interview with Michael Eric Dyson, Part II,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 4, No. 3 Summer 2001.

“Dreaming An African Renaissance,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 4, No. 4 Fall 2001.

“I Wish I Had Somebody: The Rhetorical Devices of the Black Church,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 5, No. 3 Summer 2002 (co-authored with David L. Blow, Sr.).

“An Interview with Bernice Johnson Reagon of Sweet Honey in the Rock,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 5, No. 3 Summer 2002 (co-authored with David L. Blow, Sr.).

“An Intimate Relationship with Flunk,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 6, No. 1 Winter 2002-2003.

“An Interview with Suzan Johnson Cook, President of Hampton University Ministers’ Conference Choir Directors’ Prganist’ Guild Workshop,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 6, No.3 Summer 2003.

“An Interview with William Augustus Jones,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 7, No. 1 Winter 2003-2004.

“An Intimate Relationship with Flunk,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 6, No. 1 Winter 2002-2003.

“The Ministry of the Scribe: Reflections on the Ministry of TAAP,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 10, No. 3 Summer 2007.

## **Published Sermons**

“Can We Be Friends?” *A Resource Guide in the Aftermath of the Shooting of Michael Brown Ferguson, Missouri August 9, 2014*, ed. April Johnson, (Reconciliation Ministry, Christian Church [Disciples of Christ]).

“Sprinkle This Blood,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 2, No. 4 Fall 1999

“A Song in the Wilderness, A Tribute to Moses Hogan,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 6, No. 4 Fall 2003.

“The Return,” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 8, No. 1 Winter 2004-2005

“Can Rich People Be Saved?” *The African American Pulpit*, Vol 10, No. 4 Fall 2007.

“The Million March: A Sermon for Discussion,” *Atonement: The Million Man March*, ed. Kim Sadler, (Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 1996).

## **Book Reviews**

Robert Terrell – I will get this one.

## **Professional Associations**

Co-Executive Editor, *The African American Pulpit*, 2000-2007

CEO, Hope For Life International Inc., publisher *The African American Pulpit*, 2007-2010

Board Member *Societas Homiletica* (2012-present)

Academy of Homiletics Member (1996-present); Secretary of the Academy (2000-2002);

## **Lectures Given in Academic Settings**

United Theological Seminary (2013)

Trevecca College (2013)

Anna Julia Cooper Lecture for the Black Church Studies Program, Emory Theological Seminary (2014)

Reverend Dr. Frank B. Mitchell, Jr. Lecture, Palmer Theological Seminary, (2014)

Robert E. Hayes, Sr. Lecture Series, Wiley College (2014)

Ellison Lectures, Virginia Union Theological Seminary, (2014)

Eden Seminary Commencement Address (2014)

Luther Seminary: Biblical Preaching D.Min. (2013, 2014)

McCormick Theological Seminary – D. Min. program, Preaching as Celebration (2010-2014)

### **Addresses Given at Conferences**

Morning Preacher, Hampton University Ministers Conference, 2010

Lecturer, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, (2013)

Lecturer, Festival of Homiletics (2013)

Speaker, General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (2013)

Lecturer, American Heart Association (2013)

Preacher, Academy of Preachers (2014)

Preacher, Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Michigan (2014)

Preacher, Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North Carolina (2014)

Preacher, Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois-Wisconsin (2014)

Preacher, Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana (2014)

Preacher, American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York (2014)

Speaker, Transition Into Ministry Conference (2014)

### **International Travel**

Societas homileticus, Marurai India (2013,2014)

Under African Skies Conference, Johannesburg South Africa (2014)