

Rev. Dr. Aisha R. Lovens

Aisha Rochelle Lovens is a PhD student in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary whose research examines sex rhetoric in Black churches, embodiment, eros, womanist sexual ethics, and the homiletical possibilities opened through Black literary and religious traditions. She is the author of the Doctor of Ministry project thesis “Gathering at the Clearing: Engendering a Culture and Climate of Sexual Safety at STVU,” which emerged from her research on sexual integrity, harassment, and institutional culture among Black clergy and theological communities. In 2025, she was named a recipient of the Sacred Writes Fellowship for public-facing scholars. She was featured on the Classical Ideas Podcast, where she discussed religion, rhetoric, sexuality, and Black church discourse. Dr. Lovens has taught and mentored in theological education, including service as an Adjunct Professor in the Doctor of Ministry program at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University. She was recognized as a Religious Institute Emerging Scholar in 2018 and won the Washington Theological Consortium Sermon Slam in 2013. She graduated with distinction from Norfolk State University and completed her Master of Divinity summa cum laude. Through her scholarship, teaching, workshops, and public engagement, Dr. Lovens seeks to cultivate intellectually rigorous and ethically grounded conversations about preaching, embodiment, sexuality, and Black religious life for both academic and public audiences. Her forthcoming essay, “Y’all Don’t Mind if I Just Deliver My Own Self: A Quare Womanist Reading of Juanita Bynum’s No More Sheets,” will appear in *Building New Tables: Queering Womanist/Feminist Preaching*.