

Rev. Frank A. Thomas, PhD

Renowned preacher, transformative teacher, and visionary leader Dr. Frank A. Thomas recently retired from a remarkable career distinguished by excellence in theological education and scholarship. Most recently, he served as Director of the Compelling Preaching Initiative and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, where he founded the groundbreaking PhD Program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric.

At CTS, Dr. Thomas fostered excellence in preaching through the Mixed Methods Preaching Conference and created the African American Legacy Preaching Series, archiving invaluable resources for the preaching tradition.

Over his 36-year teaching career, Dr. Thomas taught more than 2,500 students at CTS, McCormick Theological Seminary, Memphis Theological Seminary, and United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Thomas served over 31 years in pastoral ministry at New Faith Baptist Church of Matteson, Illinois, and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church of Memphis, Tennessee. His many publications include *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching*, *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, and *Preaching with Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Sermons 1750-Present*.

Dr. Thomas holds a PhD in Communications (Rhetoric) from the University of Memphis, a Doctor of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary, Doctor of Ministry degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary and United Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary, a Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) from Alma College, and a Master of Arts in African-Caribbean Studies from Northeastern Illinois University. He has shared 47 years of life and ministry with his beloved partner, Rev. Dr. Joyce Scott Thomas. They are the proud parents of Rachel Sojourner Dickerson and the late Anthony William Thomas.