

Wayne E. Croft, Sr. D.Min. Ph.D.
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West Chester, PA 19380
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EDUCATION

Drew University, Madison, NJ May 2009
Doctor of Philosophy
Major: Liturgical Studies, **Minor:** Homiletics
Dissertation: *You Jes' Wait A Little: The Motif of Hope in African American Preaching During the Slave and Post-Civil War Periods*

**First graduate from Drew University to earn a DMin and PhD in the institution's history*

Drew University, Madison, NJ May 2005
Master of Philosophy

Drew University, Madison, NJ May 2002
Doctor of Ministry
Major: Faith-Based Economic Development
Dissertation: *God's Call to Social Ministry: Developing A Strategy for Housing Redevelopment*

Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ May 2000
Master of Theology
Major: Congregational Studies
Thesis: *Ordination: Practices of Churches Affiliated with the Eastern Region Progressive National Baptist Convention*

Baptist Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA May 1998
Master of Divinity - Eastern

Trinity College, Newburgh, IN August 1994
Bachelor of Arts

DOCTORAL EXAMINATIONS

TRADITION: African-American Preaching in the Baptist Tradition, John Jasper, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Gardner C. Taylor (Spring 2005)

PERIOD: Reformation (Spring 2005)

PROBLEM: Real Presence (Fall 2004)

FIGURE: John Chrysostom (Fall 2004)

LANGUAGE EXAMINATIONS

Greek – Translation of written text

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

St. Paul's Baptist Church, West Chester, PA 2012- Present
Senior Pastor

Responsibilities include preaching, teaching, administration, pastoral care, and counseling. Oversight includes the management of an annual budget in excess over \$1,200,000 and the supervision of staff persons.

The Church of the Redeemer Baptist, Philadelphia, PA 1993- 2012
Senior Pastor

Responsibilities include preaching, teaching, administration, pastoral care and counseling. Oversight includes the management of an annual budget in excess over \$1,000,000 and the supervision of staff persons.

Sharon Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA 1989-1993
Singles Ministry

Responsibilities included providing pastoral leadership for single adults and parents. This included program management, development, member recruitment, training and ensuring the integration of the group into the overall ministry of the church.

DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led The Church of the Redeemer Baptist in a \$1.7 million dollar multi-purpose building campaign; which was completed in three years. Increase membership from 177 to 1,800 members.
- Oversaw and directed finance activities for the church that was responsible for securing a 3.4 acre city block in Philadelphia; paid in full.
- Led the church in raising over \$900,000 in three years to build a future church campus on land paid for by the church.
- Increased the annual budget of St. Paul's Baptist Church from \$800,000 to 1.2 million in three years, as well as, increased membership with more than 350 new members.

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 2011-Present
The Jeremiah A. Wright, Sr. Associate Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics in African American Studies

Current Courses Taught:

- Worship in the African American Tradition
- Preaching in the African American Tradition
- Preaching Special Occasions in the African American Tradition
- Prophetic Preaching

- Baptist Polity

**Received tenure July 1, 2014*

Houston Graduate School of Theology, Houston, TX January 2012

Visiting Instructor

Course Taught: Prophetic Preaching (D.Min. Intensive)

Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University, Wynnewood, PA 2008-2010

Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics

Courses Taught:

- Introduction to Preaching
- Preaching in the African American Tradition
- Preaching Practicum
- Liturgical Theology – Theology and Practice of Worship

Eastern Baptist (now Palmer) Theological Seminary 2000-2002

Wynnewood, PA

Adjunct Professor and Lecturer

The Theology and Practice of Worship

Assistant Instructor 1997-1998

Courses Taught:

- Introduction to Preaching
- The Theology and Practice of Worship

Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary School of Christian Ministry, Wynnewood, PA 2000

Instructor

Course Taught: Introduction to Preaching

Philadelphia Biblical University, Langhorne, PA 2000

Adjunct Professor

Course Taught: Creative Preaching and Teaching

Taylor University, Fort Wayne, IN 1999

Adjunct Professor

LECTURES

How Shall They Hear Without a Preacher Conference, Morristown, NJ

Lecturer (2015)

- “Preaching with a Limp”

Lecturer (2014)

- “Preaching on Controversial Issues in the Market Place”

Lecturer (2013)

- “Always Ready for Reconciliation: Preaching Through Church Conflict”

Lecturer (2012)

- “Consulting the Christian Calendar: Giving Voice to the Liturgical Year”

Lecturer (2011)

- “Dealing Creatively with Didactic Passages: Preaching What the Text Teaches”

Lecturer (2010)

- “Prophetic Preaching and the Prophetic Preacher”

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Preaching Days Conference

Lecturer (2015)

- “Preaching with a Limp”

Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association

Lecturer/Presenter

- “Baptist History and Practices”

West Chester University, PA

Lecturer (2014)

- “Black Church and the Black Community”

Frank B. Mitchell Lectureship – Palmer Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA

Lecturer (2008)

- “Fire in my Bones: African American Prophetic Preaching”

Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, New Orleans, LA

Lecturer (2007)

- “Biblical Preaching in a Postmodern World”

Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education, Chicago, IL

Lecturer (2001)

- “Church Growth in Urban Communities”

Philadelphia FIGHT Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Lecturer (2012)

- “Preaching on HIV/AIDS”

Academy of Homiletics

Moderator (2009)

- “Preaching and Change: The Role of Pastoral Leadership in Preaching”

- **Facilitator**

Black Caucus Presentation of Papers

SPECIAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- World AIDS Day, Philadelphia (2015)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Preaching Days Conference (2015)

- Center for Urban Theological Studies of Lancaster Bible College – Baccalaureate Speaker (2014)
- NAACP West Chester Branch – Keynote Speaker (2014)
- Phoenixville, PA Social Concerns Committee Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast – Keynote Speaker (2014)
- Pennsylvania’s Chester County OIC 33rd Annual Awards Gala Banquet – Keynote Speaker (2013)
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. – Founders Day Speaker (2012)
- Princeton Theological Seminary – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Speaker (2011)
- Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia – Preaching with Power (2010)
- National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. – Evening Preacher (2010)
- Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Philadelphia Alumnae Chapter – Prayer Breakfast Speaker (2008)
- Alliance of Black Social Workers – Conference Speaker (2007)
- Montgomery County Interfaith Service/Gwynedd-Mercy College – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Speaker (2006)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MILITARY EXPERIENCE

- **United States Army** (1988-1995) Honorable Discharge

PUBLICATION CONTRIBUTIONS

- *Bright Side Somewhere: The Motif of Hope in African American Preaching.* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, Forthcoming January 2017)
- “Gardner Calvin Taylor: Poet Laurate and Dean of Preachers” *Preaching Magazine* (January/February 2016).
- Book Review – Adam L. Bond, *Imposing Preacher: Samuel DeWitt Proctor and Black Public Faith.* (Fortress Press, 2013) in *Currents in Theology and Mission*, vol. 43, no. 1 (January 2016), 29.
- “Never Alone,” in *Athens/Oxford Sermons* vol. 6, ed. Joel Gregory (Waco, TX: Hupomone Press, 2014), 43-55.
- *Unexpected Calls to Unexpected Places: Sermons on Jonah.* (Nashville: R. H. Boyd Publishing Corporation, 2013).
- “E.K. Bailey: Expositor of the Word” *Preaching Magazine* (July/Aug 2012), 52-53.
- “John Jasper: Preaching as One with Authority” *Preaching Magazine* (March/April 2012), 60-61.
- Book Review – Marvin A. McMickle, *Where Have All the Prophets Gone?* (Pilgrim Press, 2006) in *Encounter*, vol. 70, no. 3 (2009), 73-75.
- “A Candidate for the Hall of Faith” in *The African-American Pulpit Journal* (Winter 2008-2009), 44-48.
- “Religious Discourse in the Public Square: Wright or Wrong,” *The Philadelphia Tribune*, 25 March 2008, sec. 5A.
- “If I Can Help Somebody: The Bible and Social Concerns” *Mission Herald* (Spring 2007), 24-26.

- Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., ed., *From One Brother to Another: Voices of African American Men Volume II* (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 2003)
- “What Does It Mean To Preach Biblically Today?” in *The African-American Pulpit Journal* (Winter 2003), 16-19.
- “The Promise Guaranteed” in *The African-American Pulpit Journal* (Summer 1999), 15-20.

DENOMINATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
- Progressive National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.
- Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity
- American Baptist Churches USA
- Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association – **Dean**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Baptist Churches (PBA) Commission on the Ministry – **Past Board Member**
- Opportunities Industrialization Center of Chester County (OIC) – **Vice Chairman**
- Redeemer Renaissance Community Development Corporation, Philadelphia, PA - **Founder**
- Philadelphia FIGHT, Philadelphia, PA – **Board Member**
- Bethel Point Foundation - **Board Member**
- National Association for the Advancement of Color People – **Life Member**
- Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violence & Social Change – **Member**
- Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Beta Eta) – **Member**
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. – **Life Member**
- Academy of Homiletics – **Member**
- American Academy of Religion – **Member**
- North American Academy of Liturgy - **Candidate for Membership**

AWARDS

- Presented Key to the City of West Chester, PA (2014)
- Granted Tenure – Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (2014)
- Gimper Award – The Urban Education Fund (2008)
- Top 22 New Revivalist in the country – African American Pulpit Journal (2007-2008)
- Distinguished Fellow – Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University (2007)
- The Fund for Theological Education Doctoral Fellow (2002-2004)
- Graduate Academic Merit Scholarship – Drew University (2002-2004)
- Minister of the Year – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (2003)
- Bishop Prince A. Taylor Scholarship in Liturgical Studies – Drew University (2002-2003)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers of Morehouse College Inductee (2002)
- Doctor of Ministry Degree with Distinction - Drew University, Madison, NJ (2002)

- Men Making a Difference – City of Philadelphia (2000)
- Young Men of America – Who’s Who Outstanding Young Americans (1998)
- Olhman Scholarship – Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA (1997)
- Magna Cum Laude –Trinity College, Newburgh, IN (1994)

PERSONAL DATA

Marital Status: Married

Children: Father of three