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September 16, 2019

Topics Include Lessons Learned by Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Harlem

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Dr. Reggie Williams, associate professor of Christian Ethics at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, will deliver the inaugural Mary Washburn Wilson lectures for the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University on Oct. 14-15.

On Monday, Oct. 14, he will speak on the theme “Bonhoeffer Learning Discipleship in Harlem,” and on Tuesday, Oct. 15, his lecture will be “What We Must Do to Be Free: Black Aesthetics and Christian Discipleship.” The lectures will be delivered at 1 p.m. on both days in Dover Chapel on the Gardner-Webb University campus in Boiling Springs.



Dr. Reggie Williams

Williams is the author of “Bonhoeffer’s Black Jesus: Harlem Renaissance Theology and an Ethic of Resistance” (Baylor University Press, 2014), winner of the Choice Current Review for Academic Libraries Outstanding Academic Title Award for 2015. The book is an analysis of the influence of German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s exposure to Harlem Renaissance intellectuals and worship at Harlem’s Abyssinian Baptist Church during Bonhoeffer’s year of post-doctoral study at Union Seminary in New York, 1930-31.

Williams is currently writing a new book, “Interrogating Theological Anthropology in the Harlem Renaissance: The Figure of the Human as a Problem for Christian Ethics,” and has written a commentary on Joshua and Judges for Westminster John Knox Press. He is the author of numerous journal articles and chapters contributed to books. He is co-editor of a collection of essays in honor of the late Baptist ethicist Glen Stassen, William’s doctoral mentor at Fuller Theological Seminary, where he received his Ph.D. in Christian Ethics in 2011. Williams previously served on the faculty of the Department of Religion at Baylor

University in Waco, Texas.

The Mary Washburn Wilson lectures are supported by the Mary Washburn Wilson Visiting Scholar Endowment, which was established in honor of Mary Leigh Washburn Wilson (1922-2003) through a generous gift by her daughter, the Rev. Tillie Duncan, a member of the GWU Gallery of Distinguished Alumni, along with her husband, Shannon Duncan.

The public is invited to attend both lectures, which are free of charge. No reservations are required.

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4264 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

[Learn more about the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University.](#)

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