

November 8th Panelist- Across Africa Diaspora

Colleen Birchett

Dr. Colleen Birchett serves as part-time Assistant Professor at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn, New York. She is the author of *Family Ties*, *Restoring Unity in the African American Family* and editor of a series of books for church-based Bible Study, including *Africans Who Shaped Our Faith*, with Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright and *When Black Men Stand Up for God*, with Rev. Drs. Jeremiah Wright and Frank Madison Reid. She served as a columnist for *Trumpet Magazine* where she wrote the column, *The Book Corner*. Her Open Educational Resource publications have been downloaded by educators from 111 institutions throughout the world. She has served as Director of Christian Education at Second Baptist Church in Evanston Illinois and on the Education Commissions of Trinity United Church of Christ of Chicago and the Riverside Church in New York. She has served as a past Vice-Chair and current Curriculum Developer for the African Fellowship at the Riverside Church in New York. She has a Ph.D. in Instructional Design, and a Master's of Science from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She also has a Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York.



Andrea C. White

The Rev. Dr. Andrea C. White is Associate Professor of Theology and Culture at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. She has served as Executive Director of the Society for the Study of Black Religion and chair of the Black Theology Unit for the American Academy of Religion. Her research specializes in womanist theology and critical theory, philosophy of religion and phenomenology.

Her forthcoming volume is *The Scandal of Flesh: Black Women's Bodies, God, and Politics*. She is also the author of *The Back of God: A Theology of Otherness in Karl Barth and Paul Ricoeur*,

and editor of several future volumes including, *Political Theology on Edge* with Catherine Keller and Clayton Crocket, and *The State of Black Theology*.

She serves on the editorial boards for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, the Wabash Center *Journal on Teaching*, the *Black Theology Papers Project*, and she is editor of the web forum *Love, Struggle Resist*, a critical, social and political forum for the progressive multi-religious community.

Dr. White is a recipient of both the Lilly Theological Research Faculty Fellowship from The Association of Theological Schools and The Louisville Institute Book Grant for Minority Scholars.

She has delivered lectures in Brazil, Denmark, India, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and across the United States. She sits on the advisory boards for the Karl Barth Society of North America and *Logia* at the Logos Institute for Analytic and Exegetical Theology at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. She has served as a member of the Committee on the Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession and with the Theology and Religious Reflection steering committee for the American Academy of Religion. She also serves on the Committee on Teaching about the United Nations and is a founding member of The Carter Center's Scholars in Action created to address gender violence against women and girls.

Dr. White is a recipient of Emory University's 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award.

Prior to her appointment at Union, she served on the faculty at Emory University's Candler School of Theology and Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She holds a Ph.D. in theology from The University of Chicago Divinity School, a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School with a concentration in philosophy of religion, and a Bachelor of Arts from Oberlin College with honors in philosophy. She is also an ordained American Baptist minister and served as a church pastor, hospice chaplain, and chaplain for children and adults with developmental disabilities. [From Union Theological Seminary Website]



Allan Boesak

Allan Aubrey Boesak is a South African Minister in the South African Dutch Reformed Church. He has been an outstanding anti-apartheid activist, working alongside Beyers Naude and Winnie Mandela. He won the 1985 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award. It is given annually by the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights to an individual or group for courageous activism in the spirit of Robert F. Kennedy's vision and legacy. His publications include:

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- Boesak, A A 1976. *Farewell to Innocence: A Socio-Ethical Study on Black Theology and Black Power*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books. [ISBN 0-88344-130-6](#).
 - Boesak, A A & C P DeYoung 2012. *Radical Reconciliation: Beyond Political Pietism and Christian Quietism*. Maryknoll: Orbis. [ISBN 978-1-57075-976-5](#)
 - Boesak, A A 2014. *Dare We Speak of Hope: Searching for a Language of Life in Faith and Politics*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans. [ISBN 978-0-8028-7081-0](#).
 - Boesak, A A 2015. *Kairos, Crisis, and Global Apartheid: The Challenge to Prophetic Witness*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [ISBN 978-1-1375-0309-1](#).



Cláudio Carvalhaes

theologian, liturgist and artist, a native Brazilian, completed his Ph.D. in Liturgy and Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 2007. He earned a Master of Philosophy in Theology, Philosophy, and History at the Methodist University of Sao Paulo in 1997 and a Master of Divinity from the Independent Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Sao Paulo, Brazil) in 1992.

Previously, Dr. Carvalhaes taught at *McCormick Theological Seminary*, *Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia* and *Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary*. Carvalhaes is an ordained teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

A much sought-after speaker, writer, performer, and consultant, Dr. Carvalhaes has preached at *Wild Goose Festival*, *Festival of Homiletics*, *Forum for Theological Education*, *Child Defense Fund – Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry*, *Academy of Homiletics* and many other places. He has given lectures at the *Liturgy Symposium Series* at Yale Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, the *Buddhist-Christian Conference* at Denison University, the *7th Aasta Hansteen Lecture on Gender and Religion* in Oslo, Norway, the *Jubilee 800 Order of Preachers* of the Dominican Order at the Vatican, Italy, *Societas Liturgica* in Belgium, *Liturgical Conference* in Germany, and the *International Academy of Practical Theology* in Brazil. He led worship for the *All African Council of Churches* in Mozambique, taught at the *Global Institute of Theology* of the *World Communion of Reformed Churches* and leads worship and teaches at the *Hispanic Summer Program* since 2013.

Recently he has been working on a global project called *Re-Imagining Worship As Acts Of Defiance And Alternatives In The Context Of Empire*. With a grant from the *Council of World Mission*, he is leading a workshop on liturgy amidst the poor with scholars, pastors and students in four continents: Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe.

Dr. Carvalhaes, the author of three books in Portuguese, has edited two books celebrating the work of Jaci C. Maraschin and Ivone Gebara. He has published a book in English, “Eucharist and Globalization: Redrawing the Borders of Eucharistic Hospitality” (Wipf&Stock, 2013) and is the editor of “Liturgy in Postcolonial Perspectives – Only One is Holy,” (New York: Palgrave Macmillan: Post Colonialism and Religions Series, 2015). His upcoming books are: “What Has Worship Got To Do With It? Interpreting Life, Church and the World Liturgically” (Cascade Books, 2018) and “Preaching and Liberation Theology: Metaphors for Our Time,” (Abingdon

Press, 2019). He also recently edited *Forms of Speech, Religion, and Social Resistance*, *CrossCurrents*, Vol. 66, No. 1 (Summer 2016), *Black Religions in Brazil/Religiões Negras no Brasil*. Editors: Cláudio Carvalhaes and Marcos Silva. *CrossCurrents*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (Winter 2017) and *The Poetics of Religion in Rubem Alves*. Editors: Claudio Carvalhaes and Paulo Augusto S. Nogueira, *Estudos de Religião, Brasil* V. 32, N. 2 (Summer 2017).

A member of the *American Academy of Religion*, Dr. Carvalhaes is a member of its *Theological Education Committee*. He was the co-chair of the *Arts, Religion, and Literature Group*, and serves now on the board of the *Liberation Theology Group*. He is also a member of the *North American Academy of Liturgy*, *Academy of Homiletics*, and the *International Academy of Practical Theology*. Dr. Carvalhaes serves on the editorial/advisory board of academic journals and publishing houses including *Currents of Encounter Series* (Brill, Netherlands); *Cross-Currents*; *Ecclesial Practices: Journal of Ecclesiology and Ethnography*; *Horizontes Decoloniales/Decolonial Horizons* (Argentina) and *TEAR: Journal of Liturgical Resources* of CLAI, *Conselho Latino Americano de Igrejas*.

