



TRANSATLANTIC ROUNDTABLE
ON RELIGION AND RACE

2013 Conference

BLACK CHURCHES and 21ST CENTURY CAPTIVITIES



JULY 29-August 2, 2013

**Venue: Executive Conference Centre
Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration
Legon, Accra, Ghana**

Conference Schedule At-A-Glance & Special Sessions

Monday July 29:

2:00-4:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception: AU Diaspora African Forum, W.E.B. Du Bois Centre
Hosted by Her Excellency Dr. Erieka Bennett, Convening Founder and Head
of Mission, (African Union) Diaspora African Forum

Tuesday July 30:

9:00 a.m.

Introduction (Professor Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, Host Convener)

9:10

Welcome (Local officials)

9:15-9:30

Framing the Context (Professor R. Drew Smith, Co-Convener)

9:30

Plenary Panel #1: Interreligious, Interethnic, and Gender Conflict

11:00

Tea Break

11:15

Concurrent Panels (1 and 2)

12:45

Lunch

1:30

Plenary Panel #2

Black Faith and Public Voice: Twenty-First Century (Re-)Assessments

3:00

Break

3:30

Concurrent Panels (3 and 4)

5:00

Adjourn afternoon session

Wednesday July 31:

9:00 a.m.

Recap and preliminary synopsis, (Dr. William Ackah, Dr. Rothney Tshaka)

9:15

Plenary Panel 3: Gendered Captivities and Faith Sector Responsiveness

10:45

Tea break

11:00

Concurrent Panels (5 and 6)

12:30

Lunch

1:15

Concurrent Panels (7 and 8)

2:45

Break

3:15

Plenary Panel 4: Post-Colonial Church Cultures in Multicultural Societies

4;45-5:30

Final Overview and Challenge, (Prof. Smith and Prof. Asamoah-Gyadu)

Thursday August 1:

Morning

Visit to Donkor Nsuo slave river site in Assin Manso

Afternoon

Visit to Cape Coast/Elmina slave castles

Late-afternoon

Volunteer service to schoolchildren at Buduburam Refugee Camp

Friday August 2:

Evening

African Union 50th Anniversary Dinner and PANAFEST Celebration

Panels and Panelists

Plenary Panel 1: Interreligious, Interethnic, and Gender Conflict

Professor John Stanfield, Indiana University

Professor Akosua Adomako Ampofo, University of Ghana

Mr. Emmanuel Bombande, Executive Director of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, Accra

Mr. Lawrence Varnie, Director, Cradle of Hope for Relief and Development, Ghana

Plenary Panel 2: Black Faith and Public Voice: Twenty-First Century (Re-)Assessments

Ambassador Erieka Bennett AU Diaspora African Forum

Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Pastor Emeritus, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Illinois

Rabbi Kohain Halevi, Executive, Panafest Foundation

Plenary Panel 3: Gendered Captivities and Faith Sector Responsiveness

Professor Jualyne Dodson, Michigan State University

Dr. Althea Legal-Miller, King's College London

Professor Mercy Oduyoye, Institute for Women in Religion and Culture, Trinity Theol. Seminary

Rev. Dr. Iva Carruthers, Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, USA

Professor Kofi Quan-Baffour, University of South Africa

Plenary Panel 4: Post-Colonial Church Cultures in Multicultural Societies

Professor Emmanuel Lartey, Emory University

Professor Marla Frederick, Harvard University

Professor Victor Anderson, Vanderbilt University

Professor Kofi Asare Opoku, African University

Dr. Elizabeth Henry, Church of England

CONCURRENT PANELS:

Panel 1: Churches and Public Policy Considerations

Rev. Ngwana Aboseh, Presbyterian Church of Cameroon (Environmental justice in Cameroon)

Dr. Joy Bostic, Case Western Reserve University (US voter suppression and black church resistance)

Dr. Joanne Edey-Rhodes, Hunter College (Legal constrictions on African American progress)

Mr. Mbhekeni Nkosi, Stellenbosch University (Dispossession and restitution in South Africa)

Rev. V. Ndhiko Mtshiselwa, Univ. of South Africa (Truth and Reconciliation process comparisons)

Panel 2: Cultural Boundaries and Religious Community

Dr. Ekwutosi Offiong, Univ. of Calabar (Presbyterian and Anglican mission resurgence in Nigeria)

Prof. Mokhele Madise, Univ. of South Africa (Suppression of women in the Zion Christian Church)

Prof. Charles Quist-Adade, Kwantlen Polytechnic Univ. (Exploitation of Interfaith Divisions in Africa)

Dr. Maxine Bryant, Walden University (Black Christian and Islamic hospitality to ex-prisoners)

Panels and Panelists (cont.)

Panel 3: Christianity and Collective African Identity

Dr. Itumeleng Mothoagae, Univ. of South Africa (Religion, nationalisms, and South African identity)
Dr. Ebenezer Ayesu, Univ. of Ghana (19th century cultural encounters between Danes and Akans)
Mr. Tim Hartman, Univ. of Virginia (K. Bediako on theology and non-hybridized Christian identity)
Prof. E. Obiri Addo, Drew University (Prophetic Pan-African Voices of Du Bois and Nkrumah)

Panel 4: Christianity and Black Consciousness

Rev. James Anyike, Scott United Methodist Church, Indiana (Christians reclaiming Africentrism)
Dr. Ralph Watkins, Columbia Theological Seminary (Constructions of African-centered theology)
Prof. Madipoane Masenya, Univ. of South Africa (Current relevance of Steve Biko on black beauty)

Panel 5: Culture, Christianity, and Youth

Rev. Michael Brandon McCormack, Vanderbilt Univ. (Prophetic ministry and hip-hop culture)
Ms. Pauline Muir, London South Bank Univ. (Sacred music, liberation, and black British faith)
Dr. Eva Shaw-Taylor, Institute Diasporan and African Culture (Youth and Cultural Distortions)
Mr. Akwasi Arko-Achemfuor, Univ. of South Afr. (Assemblies of God and S.Afr. youth development)

Panel 6: Religious Wrasslings with Racial Stigmas

Dr. Todne Chipumuru, Univ. of Vermont (Black evangelicals, racial identity, and social difference)
Dr. Tamelyn Tucker-Worgs, Hood College (Black megachurches and paradoxes of black progress)
Dr. Iyelli Ichile, Temple University (Disparaging depictions of African spiritual traditions)

Panel 7: Pedagogy and Praxis in Social Justice Education

Prof. Marcia Riggs, Columbia Theo. Seminary (Ethical approaches to teaching religion and theology)
Prof. G. Oliver Patterson, Reformed Chu. in Amer. (Raising Afr. Americans' educational aspirations)
Mr. Desmond Attmore, Morehouse College (Educational justice in U.S.)

Panel 8: Toward Theologies that Liberate

Dr. Karen Black Griffin, Interdenominational Theo. Center (Reasserting black activist Christianity)
Dr. R. David Muir, Faith in Britain, (Pentecostal spiritualities and the prosperity gospel)
Rev. Xavier Johnson, Bethel Bapt. Church, Ohio (Theological responses to black mass incarceration)

2013 Conference Conveners

Dr. J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu, Trinity Theological Seminary, Ghana
Dr. R. Drew Smith, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Dr. William Ackah, University of London, Birkbeck
Dr. Rothney Tshaka, University of South Africa