



**PAYNE** THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY

## **Payne Theological Seminary Annual Faculty Retreat August 26 – 28, 2015**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 20, 2015**

WILBERFORCE, OHIO — Monica A. Coleman, an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and a leading authority on black and womanist theological traditions, will speak and co-facilitate a workshop on afri-centric and liberative spiritual formation at Payne Theological Seminary's Faculty Retreat on Wednesday, August 26. The three-day event will be held Wednesday, August, 26 to Friday, August, 28 at Mitchell-Anderson Hall.

Coleman's leadership and expertise in connecting faith and social justice, makes her a dynamic presenter and collaborator for our staff, said Dr. Michael Miller, Payne's associate academic dean.

He added, leading U.S. foundations have supported Coleman's research and education. She has received funding from the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation, the Association for Theological Schools – just to name a few.

Coleman has earned degrees from Harvard University, Vanderbilt University and Claremont Graduate University. She is currently an associate professor of constructive theology and African American religions, and co-director of the Center for Process Studies at Claremont School of Theology in southern California.

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The widely-published author's research and teaching interests focus on process theology, new movements in black and womanist theologies, African traditional religions (Yoruba-based traditions in the Americas), mental health, theology, and religious pluralism.

She is a two-term member of the Faith and Order Commission for the National Council of Churches. Recently, she was reappointed to this commission.

Coleman holds leadership positions with the American Academy of Religion, and is a member of the Committee on the Status of People with Disabilities in the Profession. Also, she is a member of the refereed societies, Society for the Study of Black Religion (SSBR), and the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought (IARPT).

In her spare time, she teaches Bible study at her church, and speaks widely on religion and sexuality, religious pluralism, churches and social media, mental health, and sexual and domestic violence.

**About Payne Theological Seminary:** Payne Theological Seminary, founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1894), is dedicated to the preparation of African American and other leaders for ministry in the tradition of liberation, reconciliation, social justice, and the dignity of all humankind. Located in Wilberforce, Ohio, Payne is one of the oldest Black seminaries primarily concerned with the training of men and women for the ministry. Payne is proud to be the first Black Seminary in the United States with an on-line Master of Divinity Program.

For more information, contact Sonya Thomas, Public Relations Manager at (937) 376-2946, ext. 147 or [stthomas@payne.edu](mailto:stthomas@payne.edu).

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