



# PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## Payne Theological Seminary has a New Interim President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 1, 2015**

**WILBERFORCE, OHIO**— The African Methodist Episcopal Church General Board of Trustees has selected Payne Theological Seminary Academic Dean, Dr. Michael Joseph Brown as its Interim President. The Presidential vacancy was created by the June 30 departure of Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue. She resigned from her position to teach and pursue other interests. Dr. Brown's appointment became effective July 1.



Dr. Brown is an internationally recognized biblical scholar, minister, and public intellectual. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University, and a Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Philosophy degree from University of Chicago. He is an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church. He taught New Testament and Christian Origins at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University for 12 years. Prior to joining Payne, Dr. Brown served as Associate Dean of Wabash College and was the Director of the Malcolm X. Institute on Black Studies (2011-2013).

He has authored four books: *What They Don't Tell You: A Survivor's Guide to Academic Biblical Studies*; *Blackening of the Bible: The Aims of African American Biblical Scholarship*; *The Lord's Prayer Through North African Eyes: A Window into Early Christianity*; and *The Lord's Prayer and God's Vision for the World: Finding Your Purpose Through Prayer*. In addition, he was a leading contributor to the *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*.

**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.

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