



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

ANDERSON ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

BEYOND THE WALLS

A Symposium on Mass Incarceration, Public Policy, and Reentry

Trinity Lutheran Seminary

April 20, 2016

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

PANELIST: The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith Biography



The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is the National Senior Associate for Pan African Church Engagement at Bread for the World based in Washington D.C. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers (Congress and President's Office) to end hunger at home and abroad. BFW does this by advocating changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist. Her position as a national and global strategist partnering with churches of African descent in the USA and globally seeks to engage this mission. Her work also includes her national Bread for Life monthly column. She brings wide global, national and local experience as a television personality, journalist, preacher and speaker, author, prison chaplain (Indiana Women's Prison), church executive-minister-pastor, wife and mother. Before her ministry at Bread for the World, Walker-Smith served as the Executive Director/Minister of The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, one of the oldest Council of Churches in the world founded in 1912. She was the first African American and first woman to serve in that position.

Extensive Global Experience

Walker-Smith has lived in five African countries and has worked and traveled extensively throughout Africa (35 countries) and the world (every continent except Antarctica) in rural and urban communities. Most recently she returned from China where she lectured at Nanjing Theological Seminary about Pan African Christian Women and their vision for Christian Mission and Unity. It was a preview to her upcoming book, *Ahead of Her Time: Pan African Women and Their Vision of Christian Unity and Mission*. She also participated with various global scholars in the inaugural international Religion and Social Justice International Colloquium at Tongji University and hosted by the China Christian Council. She has also been invited to be a part of global discussions about the future of World Christianity convened by the international Theological Colloquium and hosted by the Global Forum for the Future of World Christianity (GFFWC). She has served on the top governing body of World Council of Churches, the Central Committee. She currently serves on the Global Communications Board of the Baptist World Alliance. She is also a Senior Fulbrighter with the USA State Department where she taught at Kumba Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has been adjunct faculty at Indiana Wesleyan Seminary and guest lecturer at many colleges and universities. She currently serves as a

Commissioner on the Global Ecumenical Theological Commission of Christian related colleges and universities. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Awards and Recognitions

Walker-Smith has received a number of awards and national recognitions such as being received by President Obama on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington and by former President William Clinton at the White House. Most recently she received the highest honor in the State of Indiana, the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from Governor Michael Pence. Prior to this she received the State's Religion Award by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and Indiana Black Expo. She has also received awards and recognitions from her alma maters of Yale University and Kent State University as well as from Morehouse College, the Historymakers where her video archive has been selected to be a part of the permanent collection at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., and World Council of Churches.

Education and Other Pioneering National Church Leadership

Walker-Smith graduated from Kent State University with a degree in telecommunications and minor in dance/drama as well as certification in Religious Studies. She is also a graduate of Yale University Divinity School with the Master of Divinity degree and Princeton Theological Seminary with the Doctor of Ministry degree in 1995 where she was the first African American woman to graduate from this program. Her pioneering work, *Dynamics of Hospitality: The Case of Reintegration of Christian Women* in 1995, has become a touchstone in the churches and the public concerning growing awareness about Mass Incarceration and the reentry of ex-prisoners. Walker-Smith was ordained at Convent Avenue Baptist Church in New York, New York. She continues to serve on the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. where she has also served as Vice Chair of the Board. She was the first ordained woman to serve in this role. She has also served the Presidents of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. as an ecumenical advisor and representative to various church bodies nationally and globally.

Extensive Media Leadership Experience

Walker-Smith has made many global and national television appearances. Walker-Smith's media work has also included being host of the television show, Faces of Faith with the ABC affiliate in Indiana and PAX television, national co-host with actress Mariette Hartley on the Odyssey/Hallmark show, the Big Matinee where she provided ethical and lively perspectives on movies. She has been a guest radio host with Radio One which is the leading African American radio network in the USA. Most recently she was the global television/ live stream morning anchor and talk show host on the plenary on Justice at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, Korea. As anchor she interviewed global religious leaders etc. and played a critical role in the development of the daily show that was also broadcasted on Korean Christian television. The show and plenary received global critical acclaim. She was recently selected as the new global convener of the Pan African Women's Ecumenical Network of the World Council of Churches which will expand and deepen her pioneering research on the subject. This work will result in the book she is writing. She has also appeared on CNN, Good Morning America, Black Enterprise, Ebony magazine and Jet magazine. Her op-ed columns on religion and society in the leading newspaper in Indiana, the Indianapolis Star, and her monthly op-ed columns in the Indianapolis Recorder (African American newspaper) have positioned her to continue her writing for the Indianapolis Recorder as one of the places where her current Bread for the World monthly column, *Bread for Life*, runs.

