

Dr. Clarence E. Wright

CWright@missio.edu

Personal Summary

A pastor, seminary president, author, community leader and scholar of practical theology

Education

- **Doctor of Ministry, Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, 2020**
 - 3.95 GPA, Dual Concentrations in Transformative Leadership and Prophetic Preaching
Thesis Topic: “The Sunday After: Effective Preaching in Response to Current Events”
 - Received Gene and Jean Bartlett Preaching Prize
- **Master of Divinity, Missio Seminary (Formerly Biblical Theological Seminary), 2017**
 - 3.94 GPA, Student Advisory Committee Member, Accreditation Board Representative
 - Received MDiv Award for outstanding academic achievement
- **Master of Arts in Missional Theology, Missio Seminary, 2016**
 - Received President’s Award for exemplifying school’s mission
- **Bachelor of Arts in Religion, Temple University, 2002** (Urban Studies Minor)

Pastoral Highlights

Love Zion Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA

Positions: **Senior Pastor (4/13-Present), Associate Pastor (2/06-4/13),
Youth Pastor (4/00-12/04), Minister of Music (11/98-4/00)**

- Provide vision and spiritual leadership for a congregation of 200+
- Maintained church’s unity and culture while shifting median age from seniors to millennials
- Designed and implemented robust discipleship curriculum, and innovative outreach activities
- Increased budget by 60% while eliminating all debt besides mortgage
- Ran successful campaigns for new roof, sanctuary seating, and multimedia A/V system
- Integrated new technology for multimedia services, live streaming and electronic giving

Academic Career Highlights

Missio Seminary, Philadelphia, PA

Positions: **President and Professor of Practical Theology (7/23-Present), Assistant Professor
of Practical Theology, Director of Urban Initiatives (9/21-7/23), P.U.L.P.I.T.
Program Fellow (7/21-7/23), Affiliate Faculty and Ambassador (8/20-8/21)**

- Lead Seminary through restructuring and partnership for 21st century sustainability
- Serve on resident faculty, curriculum revision committee, strategic planning committee, accreditation steering committee, and as faculty representative to cabinet
- Revised curriculum within the highest standards of A.T.S. and Regional accrediting bodies
- Designed 6 new courses, 4 new master’s programs, 1 new doctoral program,
- Established and advise Arthur White scholarship fund for Black Seminarians and successfully raised funds toward a matching \$100,000 grant
- Advise two \$1,000,000 Lily Grant funded programs
- Raised profile of the school through student, alumni and community relations

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Ecumenical Leadership

Baptist Pastors and Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity

Positions: **President (1/22-Present), First Vice President (1/20-12/21),
Second Vice President (1/18-12/19), Conference Musician (1/15-12/17)**

- Provide vision and leadership for weekly conference of 100+ pastors and ministers
- Doubled Membership from Previous Administration
- Established robust Pastoral enrichment program
- Produced successful annual Citywide Revival with \$20,000+ budget
- Raised more than \$50,000 for scholarships, HBCU's, Foreign missions and to establish benevolence program for struggling pastors and ministers
- Established hybrid format to maintain and grow conference during and beyond COVID-19

Progressive National Baptist Convention, Washington, DC

Positions: **National Executive Board Member (2019-Present), Chair of Seminarian Outreach (2022-Present), Eastern Region, 2nd Vice President (2023-Present), Pennsylvania State President (2018-Present)**

- Co-Founded Pennsylvania Progressive Baptist Alliance to restore activity at the state level
- Served on host committee for 2018 session in Philadelphia
- Represented Pennsylvania on the PNBC Executive Board since 2019
- Appointed national chair of seminarian outreach in 2022
- Served as director of music for Eastern Region

Chosen 300 Ministries, Philadelphia, PA

Positions: **Chairman of Board of Directors (1/19-Present), Site Director (10/09-04/14)**

- Provide Board Leadership and Oversight for an international faith-based service organization
- Coordinate and develop relationships with 125 interdenominational partner congregations
- Chair Human Resource Committee and coordinate over 5,000 volunteers annually
- Oversee annual budget over \$500k and assets over \$1,000,000
- Increased budget and operated in the black for 4 consecutive years as board chair

Additional Professional Experience

Main Street Wilmington, Wilmington, DE

Position: **Managing Director (1/07-4/09)**

- Directed program at executive level
- Commissioned strategic market research for business recruiting and retention
- Developed funds and engaged community partners

Ogontz Avenue Revitalization Corporation, Philadelphia, PA

Positions: **Program Manager, Housing and Economic Development (1/03-4/06) Intern (8/02-12/02)**

- Recruited businesses, planned major events, developed neighborhood branding strategy
- Communicated with local homeowners, government officials and business owners
- Wrote grants, managed budget, developed funds and reports to funders

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Published Works:

- *The Sunday After: Preaching in Moments and Movements* (Judson Press, 2023)
- “Faith When the Worst Happens” (Book Chapter: *Preaching During a Pandemic: The Rhetoric of the Black Preaching Tradition*, Peter Lang Publishing, 2023)
- “Powerless” (Book Chapter: *The Pastors’ Diaries: An Intimate Look Behind the Pulpit*, Westbow Press, 2022)
- “The Changing Face of Fellowship: Are Ministers Conferences Still Relevant?” (Wayland Baptist Theological Seminary Journal, 2021)
- “American Dream, Christian Nightmare”, (The Living Pulpit, October 2020 Issue)
- “The Debt of Mercy” (American Bible Society, Lenten Journal 2020)
- “Remembering How to Dream” (The Living Pulpit, December 2018 Issue)
- “The Need for Open and Honest Critique in the Black Church: A Response to the Aretha Franklin Eulogy” (Archived, originally published on poeticpastor.com, September 1, 2018)
- “Fulfillment Service” (The Mission Herald, Winter 2018 Issue)
- “Love Unlimited? Polyamory and the 21st Century Church” (Archived, originally published on poeticpastor.com, December 15, 2017)
- “Flags, Football and Faith: An Evening at America’s Largest Church (Archived, originally published on poeticpastor.com, August 14, 2017)
- “Haiku for the Morning After” (Poetry, Apiary Magazine, 2015)
- “Ghazal for August in Philadelphia” (Poetry, Apiary Magazine, 2015)
- “Lost Boy” (Poetry, Apiary Magazine, 2012)

Selected Papers and Research Projects

- **Doctoral Homiletics Paper:** *In Season, Out of Season: The Changing Landscape of Black Preaching in America* (Colgate Rochester Crozer, 2019)
- **Doctoral Homiletics Paper:** *The Normative Task of Hope: Preaching in Response to Racial Injustice* (Colgate Rochester Crozer, 2019)
- **Doctoral Leadership Paper:** *The Moral Imperative for Economic Justice* (Colgate Rochester Crozer, 2018)
- **Master of Divinity Thesis:** *The Emancipation of Hagar: The Angel of the LORD as Liberator* (Missio Seminary, 2017)
- **Master of Divinity Independent Study Project:** *Rebels and Revolutionaries: Baptist History Intertwined with American History* (Missio Seminary, 2017)
- **Master of Arts Senior Project:** *Beyond Incarnation: Anthropomorphic Appearances of God throughout Human History* (Missio Seminary, 2016) *MA relinquished for MDiv credit
- **Jeremiah Exegetical Paper:** *Home Away from Home: Displacement as a Catalyst for Incarnational Ministry* (Missio Seminary, 2016)
- **Ruth Exegetical Paper:** *The Famine Before the Harvest: God’s Role in Human Suffering, A Study of Naomi* (Missio Seminary, 2015)
- **World Christian History Research Project:** *Necessary Heresy: Athanasius’ Fight against Arianism vis-à-vis the Formation of Trinitarian Orthodoxy* (Missio Seminary, 2015)
- **World Christian History Research Project:** *Politics, Personality and Protest: The Personal Dynamics of the East-West Schism of 1054* (Missio Seminary, 2015)

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Lectures, Seminars and Panels

United Lutheran Seminary (2023)

Preaching With Power: A Forum on Black Preaching and Theology

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (2022)

Chapel Preacher for annual Lecture Week

Missio Seminary (2022)

“Hands on the Gospel Plow: The Missional Work of the Black Church”

Palmer Theological Seminary (2022)

“What’s the Word? Preaching through Times of Crisis & Beyond”

Missio Seminary (2021)

“We’ve Come This Far By Faith: 50 years of Black History at Missio Seminary”

Missio Seminary (2020)

“Saving the Season: Christmas Worship During a Pandemic”

Missio Seminary (2020)

“Racism and the American Church”

Missio Seminary (2020)

“Courageous Conversations on Race Relations”

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (2020)

“Leadership in Response to Crisis: A Conversation Between Pastors and Community Organizers”

Palmer Theological Seminary (2020)

“Empowered African American Congregations: Weaving Together the Saving Power of the Gospel Through Discipleship, Outreach, Scholarship and Activism”

Evening Baptist Ministers Conference of Philadelphia (2019)

“Preaching Through the News Cycle: Effective Sermonic Response to Current Events”

Compassion School of Ministry (2019)

“Text Driven Character Development in Narrative Preaching”

National United Church Ushers Association of America (2019)

“Leadership: Communicating Ideas for a Yes”

Lancaster Bible College (2018)

Philadelphia Campus Chapel Speaker

Publishing in Color Conference (2018)

“Ask the Publisher” Panel Participant

Biblical Theological Seminary (2016)

Student Commencement Address

Iron Sharpening Iron Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2016)

“Preparing an Effective Sermon”

Rosemont College, Rosemont, PA (2016)

“History of the Poetry Slam Movement in Philadelphia”

Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival, Atlanta, GA (2015)

“Get Free, Stay Free: Healthy Writing for a Lifetime of Fulfillment”

Brave New Voices International Youth Poetry Festival, Philadelphia, PA (2014)

“The Writing Lifecycle: Editing as a Continuing Process”

Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY (2012)

“Civil Rights, Then and Now”

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Memberships and Offices

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

- Kappa Iota Lambda Chapter (Spring 2022 Initiate)

American Academy of Religion

- Member (2021-Present)

Academy of Homiletics

- Member (2020-Present)

Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity

- Member (2018-Present)

Pennsylvania Progressive Baptist Alliance

- President/Co-Founder (2018-Present)

Pennsylvania Baptist State Convention

- Progressive Caucus Leader (2018-Present)

Pastors and Minister Conference of Camden County and Vicinity

- Member (2018-Present)

P.O.W.E.R. Interfaith Organization

- Clergy Caucus Member (2019- 2021)

Missio Seminary Alumni Council

- Member (2017-2020)

Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association

- Member (2016-Present)

Church of Christian Compassion Covenant of Pastors, Philadelphia, PA

- Member (2008-Present)

Courses Taught

- Theology and Practice of Worship (Missio Seminary, Spring 2022, 2023)
- The Story of the Church (Missio Seminary, Spring 2022, 2023)
- Community and Mission (Missio Seminary, Fall 2020, 2021, 2022)
- Advanced Homiletics (Missio Seminary, Spring 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Intro to Homiletics (Missio Seminary, Spring 2023)
- A Narrative Study of Acts (Missio Seminary, Fall 2021)
- Racism as Ministry Context (Missio Seminary, Fall 2020)
- Contending for the Faith (Compassion School of Ministry, Fall 2020)

Certifications, Licensure and Fellowships

- Callaloo Creative Writing Fellowship, Brown University, Providence, RI (2016)
- Certificate in Non-Profit Management, LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA (2011)
- Ordained to Ministry, Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association (2002)
- Licensed to Ministry, Bell Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Syracuse, NY (1996)

International Mission Immersions

Cyprus (2022), Egypt (1996), Guyana (2010, 2014, 2018, 2022), Greece (1996, 2022), Israel and Palestine (1996, 2017, 2022), Italy (2022), Russia (1996), South Africa (2011), Turkey (2022)