

# Dr. Clarence E. Wright

Clarence.E.Wright@gmail.com

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## Personal Summary

Pastor and Community Leader with 20+ years of ministry experience.

## Education

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

## Professional Experience

### 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 executive leadership for a congregation of 200
- Develop church wide curriculum and teaching plans
- Teach weekly Bible classes and Preach Sunday sermons
- Fundraise and manage budget
- Lead Subsidiary Community Development Corporation

### Chosen 300 Ministries, Philadelphia, PA

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

- Provide Board Leadership and Oversight for an international faith-based service organization
- Coordinate and developed relationships with 125 partner congregations
- Managed day to day operations including administration of meals and social services
- Organized distribution of food and services to international partners in developing nations
- Chair Human Resource Committee and Supervised over 5,000 volunteers annually

### Main Street Wilmington, Wilmington, DE

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

- Directed program at executive level
- Taught seminars at National Main Street Conferences
- 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
- Acquired properties, managed construction, oversaw various community improvements
- Communicated with local homeowners, government officials and business owners
- Wrote grants, managed budget, developed funds and reports to funders

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## **Certifications, Licensure and Fellowships**

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

## **Conference Presentations and Lectures**

### **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”

### **Eastern University, St. David's, PA (2012)**

“Liturgical Music in a Contemporary Context”

### **Dutchess Community College, Poughkeepsie, NY (2012)**

“Civil Rights, Then and Now”

### **National Main Street Conference, Chicago, IL (2009)**

“Navigating the 3 P's: Partnerships, Politics and Personalities”

### **National Main Street Conference, Philadelphia, PA (2008)**

“Wilmington, Delaware: Diverse Development in Action”

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## Published Articles:

- “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 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

## 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)

## Research and Teaching Interests

- Practical Theology and Homiletics
- Missional and Incarnational Theology
- Ecclesiology and Liturgics
- World Christian History and World Religions
- Urban Studies and Ministry

## International Mission Immersions

Georgetown, Guyana (2010, 2014, 2018)

Port Elizabeth, South Africa (2011)

Moscow, Russia (1997)

Jerusalem, Israel (1996, 2017)

Athens, Greece (1996)

Cairo, Egypt (1996)

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## Memberships and Offices

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

- Clergy Caucus Member (2019- 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)

Baptist Pastors and Ministers Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity

- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2020-Present), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2018-2019), Member (2015-2017)

Foreign Mission Board, National Baptist Convention USA Inc.

- National Youth Board Member (2018)

Missio Seminary Alumni Council

- Member (2017-Present)

Progressive National Baptist Convention

- National Board Member (2018-Present), Host Committee Member (2017-2018)

Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association

- Member (2016-Present)

Church of Christian Compassion Covenant of Pastors, Philadelphia, PA

- Member (2008-Present)

The Fuze Poetry Collective, Philadelphia, PA

- Board Member (2011-2017), National Team Coach (2013)

**References Available Upon Requests**