

EZRA YOUTH SEMINARY

TIKTOK: A CALL TO LEAD

FREE Virtual Youth Conference

Saturday, January 16, 2021

10 AM - 2 PM EST



Rev. Melech E.M. Thomas
Senior Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church



Rev. Christian B. Aaron
Founder, Rising with Christian



Ms. Jessica Anderson
Youth Leader, Alfred Street Baptist Church



Rev. Kevin Lamár Peterman
Academic Dean, Ezra Youth Seminary

WWW.EZRAYOUTHSEMINARY.ORG

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Ezra Youth Seminary works to nurture and cultivate Christian leaders through character growth, leadership skills progression, and Godly knowledge by offering programs in theology and Christian leadership to youths between the ages of 10 and 18.

The second annual conference provides an opportunity for youth to interact with leaders around topics related to leadership, Christianity, and social justice.

10:00am - 10:45am Opening Remarks and Activities

Elijah Ferebee, Board Member, Ezra Youth Seminary
Kharlin Miles, Health and Wellness Coordinator, Ezra Youth Seminary
Rev. Kevin L. Peterman, Academic Dean, Ezra Youth Seminary

10:45am - 10:55am Break

10:55am - 11:45am Answering the Call to Lead

Rev. Christian B. Aaron, Founder Rising with Christian

11:45am - 12:00pm Break

12:00pm - 12:30pm Interactive Lunch

Ms. Jessica Anderson, Youth Leader, Alfred Street Baptist Church

12:30pm - 1:15pm Black Lives Matter

Rev. Melech E. M. Thomas

1:15pm - 1:30pm Closing

REV. CHRISTIAN B. AARON

Christian B. Aaron is a faith driven millennial native of Birmingham, Alabama and a graduate of Howard University where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. She is a registered nurse and graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary where she obtained a Master's of Divinity. Daily combines nursing and ministry, by creating platforms through holistic wellness.

Christian is the owner of RISE Enterprises LLC, Certified Life and Health Coach, Motivational Speaker, Retreat Host, and author of two daily devotional books entitled, "rise and Shine" and "Single is not a Sin." She has also extended her ministry beyond the borders of the United States while journeying to Cape Town, South Africa and El Salvador on mission trips. She is a 2019 Black Alumni Influencer, 2019 Howard University Move-maker, and featured on WYCB Radio. Christian considers her faith and family as her foundation and is honored to be the only girl of six boys.

Christian is the proud founder of two scholarships - SHINE for seniors in her hometown and RISE for entrepreneurs. She became a licensed minister at Mount Moriah Baptist Church where she serves as the Youth Minister. She is the proud wife to Mr. Matt Aaron and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Christian is a fearless nurse, motivator, author, entrepreneur, life coach and preacher of the Gospel and has been called to transform the lives of all through the power of God.

MS. JESSICA ANDERSON

Jessica Anderson is a lifelong public servant and ministry leader. She now serves as a Youth Leader for the Higher Ground Teen Church at Alfred Street Baptist Church where she feels called to walk alongside young people as they learn, lead, and strive to love themselves and their neighbors before they leave. When Jessica is not serving at Alfred Street, she is Partner of Training Services at The Management Center where she has the privilege to train an emerging generation of social justice leaders across the country. In her free time, Jessica loves all things thrift stores and knows there is always something valuable in what others throw away.

REV. MELECH E. M. THOMAS

Rev. Melech E. M. Thomas is a senior pastor and community activist with a heart for creating innovative ministry and developing leadership skills amongst people of all generations, both church and “un-church.” “Pastor Melech”, as he is affectionately known, was called as the Senior Pastor of the Christian Love Missionary Baptist Church on the Westside of Chicago, Illinois in 2017. He currently pastors Bethel AME Church in Selma, NC. Prior to this call, Rev. Melech served as the Youth Pastor at Covenant UCC in South Holland, IL., where in his first 6 months, over 110 young people made decisions for Christ. Melech is a graduate of Howard University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Culture and a Minor in Community and Economic Development. He also received his Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, under the tutelage of Dean John W. Kinney. He has also completed studies at both Chicago Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, respectively.

On October 10, 2015, he was selected to give the opening Christian prayer at the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, making him the youngest speaker on that day's program. Recently, his courageous leadership and service during the Freddie Gray protests in Baltimore were featured on the front page of the New York Times website as the “Young Leader in Baltimore.” His prophetic voice and his insightful commentary have been sought after by local, national, and international media outlets such as CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360, CNN International w/ Don Lemon, ABC News’ “This Week”, CBS’ “The Early Show”, PBS’ “The Rock Newman Show”, TV One's "News One Now with Roland Martin", the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Belgium’s public broadcasting network VTR and print publications like The Washington Post, The Baltimore Sun, The Boston Herald, BuzzFeed, Black College Wire, BET.com, and The Final Call.

REV. KEVIN LAMÁR PETERMAN

Born in Newark, New Jersey, the Reverend Kevin Lamár Peterman is a cutting edge faith based scholar who has been called by God to preach, teach, and advocate for a better world in the 21st century.

Reverend Peterman is a graduate of Howard University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. He earned a Master of Arts Degree in Theology with an additional certificate in Black Church Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary. He also holds a Master of Science Degree in Higher Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Rev. Peterman is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Higher Education at Howard University. In conjunction with his regular course work, Kevin has studied extensively throughout China, Japan, Ghana and South Africa in effort to learn more about the region's political, economic, and cultural affairs.

Reverend Peterman currently serves as the Director of Assessment & Strategic Initiatives at the Howard University School of Divinity and a Research Fellow at the United Negro College Fund's Frederick Patterson Research Institute. He also serves as a Board Member and Founding Academic Dean of the Ezra Youth Seminary, a non-profit that works to nurture and cultivate young Christian leaders. He has also for worked for the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions, the US Department of Education, and the DC Public School System. As an activist, he has participated in demonstrations in Ferguson, Baltimore, Washington, DC, New York, Chicago and Ohio. He recently ended a series with National Public Radio where he was featured as a contributor on NPR's Sunday morning show, The Weekend Edition.

Rev. Kevin Lamár Peterman is an ordained Baptist minister and currently serves at the historic Shiloh Baptist Church in Washington, DC. Prior to returning to the nation's capitol, he served at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, Illinois, the Cornerstone Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York and the First Baptist Church of Vauxhall, NJ. Rev. Peterman is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and has been regarded as one of the nation's most preeminent millennial leaders.

ABOUT EZRA YOUTH SEMINARY

MISSION

Ezra works to nurture and cultivate Christian leaders through character growth, leadership skills progression, and Godly knowledge by offering programs in theology and Christian leadership to youths between the ages of 10 and 18.

VISION

Ezra Youth Seminary prays and strives toward a world in which:

- Young, developing Christian leaders have ample opportunities for training and mentorship based in the Word of God to better serve and cultivate a world that loves more justly,
- There is growth of young leaders who combine determination, strong foundation in Jesus and leadership skills to bring change, hope, and direction to a chaotic world, and
- Youth are fully engaged and valued in their respective churches and ministries and have access to supportive mentors

STAY CONNECTED

To stay up-to-date on our work, please reach out to us online:

- Website: ezrayouthseminary.org
- Email: support@ezrayouthseminary.org
- Facebook: [@ezrayouthseminary](https://www.facebook.com/ezrayouthseminary)
- Instagram: [@ezra.yz](https://www.instagram.com/ezra.yz)
- Twitter: [@ezra.yz](https://twitter.com/ezra.yz)

CO-FOUNDERS

Harold Miles, Chairman of the Board

Tonya Miles, President

Established 2018

Ezra Youth Seminary, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland. This corporation is organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.