

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

EZRA YOUTH SEMINARY, INC.

INAUGURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: JESUS WHO?

A conference to inspire and motivate
Christian leadership amongst youth

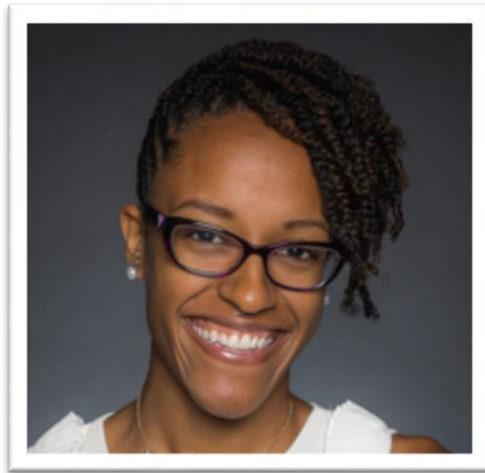
JANUARY 18, 2020
MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE
400 4TH. ST. NW, WASHINGTON, DC
10 AM - 2 PM

Register by visiting www.ezrayouthseminary.org

\$25 : Young Leaders Grades 5-12
\$30 : Adult Accompaniment

Questions? Email us support@ezrayouthseminary.org

Rachelle Bernadel
Speaker



Rachelle Bernadel is passionate about adding value to others. She believes that in order to create the next generation of leaders that will make an impact, it starts with encouraging young people to pursue values based leadership principles. Rachelle has carried this perspective throughout her work in the non-profit, for-profit as well as K-12 spaces by collaborating with students, administrators, and other education professionals. As a wellness advocate, she has also partnered with the founder of Fiji Water to help others see the connection between personal accountability and pursuing a healthy lifestyle. She loves to try new recipes and help others "get out of their own way." Rachelle holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology from the University of Maryland-College Park and is also a John Maxwell Team Certified Trainer.

Christian S. Brown
Speaker

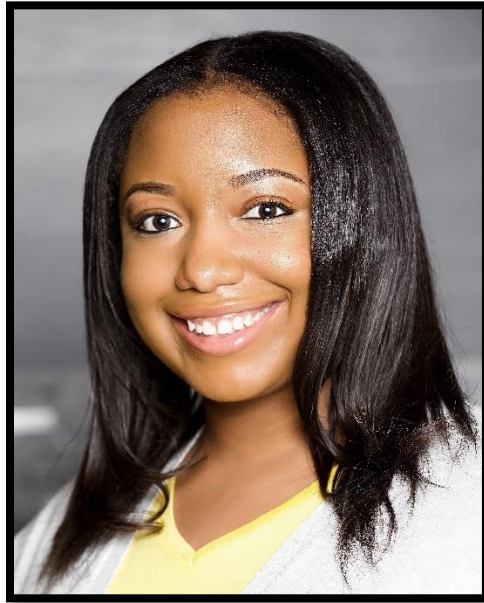


Christian Brown is a faith driven millennial native of Birmingham, Alabama and graduate of Howard University where she received a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. She is currently a registered nurse and graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary where she obtained a Master's of Divinity. Daily she strives to combine both nursing and ministry into one entity, in order to create an equilibrium of the mind, body, and spirit through holistic wellness. While on Howard's Campus she was the President of Chapel Assistants, Miss College of Nursing and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Alpha Chapter.

Christian is the owner of RISE Enterprises LLC, Certified Life Coach, RISE Scholarship founder, and author of two Daily Devotional Books entitled, "Rise and Shine: 30 Daily Devotionals for Self-Empowerment in Christ" and "Single is not a Sin." She has also extended her ministry beyond the borders of the United States while journeying to Capetown, South Africa and El Salvador on mission trips to help those abroad. She has been recognized as a 2019 Black Alumni Influencer, 2019 Howard University Move-maker, and featured on WYCB Radio as an entrepreneur. Christian considers her faith and family as her foundation and is so very honored to be the only girl of six boys.

She became a licensed minister at Mount Moriah Baptist Church where she serves as the Youth Minister. As Youth Minister of five years, she is passionate about empowering the next generation with purpose and development. Her motto is "the greatest gift of life is the gift of giving" and she challenges others daily to pay it forward. She is a fearless nurse, motivator, author, entrepreneur, life coach and preacher of the Gospel and has been called to transform the lives of all whom she comes in contact with through the power of God.

Rev. Mariah Crews
Speaker



Rev. Mariah Crews, “Rev. Mimi” graduated from Hampton University in 2014. She is blessed to have the opportunity of serving as the Minister to Teens and College Students at Kingdom Fellowship A.M.E. Church in Silver Spring, MD. Rev. Mimi is also pursuing her Masters of Divinity at Wesley Theological Seminary and has been ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the A.M.E. Church. Rev. Mimi has always been extremely involved in mentoring and working with the youth. Her goal is to encourage all young people to be prayed up and poppin’ – to walk in confidence and to walk in Christ, because only then will they be unstoppable. Rev. Mimi worked in the television industry for a large portion of her career. She began at C-SPAN and through the grace of God was able to participate in the 2014 NBC Olympics in Russia. Rev. Mimi is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and a graduate scholar of the Emma L. Bowen Foundation for Minorities in Media. God has done extraordinary things in Rev. Mimi’s life and she seeks to glorify God in all she does. Rev. Mimi is encouraged daily by 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of *power, love, and a sound mind.*”

Rev. Akil Dickens
Speaker



Rev. Akil Dickens is currently serving as the Senior Minister to Youth at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington, Maryland under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr. & Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning. In addition to his ministerial duties at Ebenezer he serves under the appointment of Bishop James Davis as the Director of Youth Ministries for the 2nd Episcopal District.

At Ebenezer he is responsible for managing youth programs and initiatives for the church's 2,000 youth, teaching weekly Youth Bible Study, providing spiritual guidance and care needs to the youth in crisis, offering outreach and support services to area schools, and implementing innovative services and programs to uplift youth spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. He has organized and led youth conferences, college tours, and cultural excursions for youth across the region and has been called upon to speak at youth conferences, religious gatherings, church services, universities, and schools internationally.

Rev. Akil did his undergraduate studies at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and graduate studies at the Howard University School of Divinity. He is ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Some of his leadership positions have included Religious Leader for Student Affairs at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Maryland State Page for the Maryland General Assembly, County Executive's Youth Advisory Council for Prince George's County, Chaplain for Explorer Post of Southern Maryland, and Co-Chair for the Kiamasha Youth Empowerment Youth Organization to name a few.

He is the proud son of Kenneth & Carolyn Dickens and the brother to Brian and Kamilah Dickens.

Elijah Ferebee
Speaker



Elijah Ferebee is a recent graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree and hopes to one day be ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church.

At Wesley, Elijah works as a recruiter for the Seminary's Office of Admissions and possesses a love for ministry that manifests itself in all areas of his life. Alongside his love for ministry, Elijah also has a passion for mental health and pastoral care and counseling. While attending his alma mater Virginia State University, he earned his Bachelor of Science in the field of Psychology. It is also at Virginia State University where Elijah heard and felt his call into pastoral ministry.

During his time at VSU he heavily participated with the United Campus Ministries team on his school's campus, helping spearhead the "Men of Troy" mentoring program at neighboring school Etrick Elementary in Petersburg, Virginia. Since that time Elijah has participated in two internships through the VAUMC (Virginia United Methodist Conference), Calling 21 and Connections 21, the latter afforded Elijah the opportunity to work closely alongside the VAUMC annual conference team as they prepped for the VAUMC's annual conference.

Elijah hails from Brooklyn, NY, is the oldest of four children and was raised by his mother and grandmother. He is dedicated to empowering and uplifting others through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and believes that his life's greatest reward is the ability to glorify God with everything that he is and with all he has been given!

Rev. Lauren Harris
Speaker



Rev. Lauren Harris is an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) and presently serves at New Life Laurel in Laurel, Maryland, a ministry of Reid Temple A.M.E. Church. She has over 15 years of ministerial experience. She's worked with ministries, churches and organizations including Mt. Ennon Baptist Church, Reid Chapel A.M.E. Church, Interfatih Voices Radio Show, and Wesley Theological Seminary. She's an accomplished writer and has written for Gospel Today magazine, Rev. Matthew L. Watley's Power Lunch Newsletter, and Reid Temple's Joshua's Journal Magazine. She's been published in Sojourners magazine, Women in Theology, The A.M.E. Church's Christian Recorder, and Black Christian News. Rev. Harris is married to Marvine Harris, III, a G.I.S. specialist, but was a widow for six years. In honor of her late husband, Gabriel Jones, she volunteers for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and was a finalist in MADD's search for a national president in 2018. She is the proud mother of two children, Kent (8) and Lacey (6). Her favorite scripture is John 15:16.

Rev. Charles E. Howell
Speaker



Reverend Charles E. Howell is the son of William and Anna Howell. He received his formal education from the Springfield, MA Public Schools where he graduated from Central High School, Springfield, MA. He holds an Associate of Arts degree from Springfield Technical Community College and received his Bachelor of Arts in History/ Education from Clark Atlanta University in 1998 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Reverend Howell began his teaching career in New York City as a Teach for America Corps member. He taught 5th grade students at the Adam Clayton Powell Elementary School in Harlem, NY. Reverend Howell taught for many years in the Fairfax County Public School system in Northern Virginia. One of his passions was his after school program called Project A.D.A.M, which is the acronym for Aiding, Developing, Achieving Men. This all male group was designed to foster unity, brotherhood and community service.

In May 2007, Rev. Howell received the Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA. Reverend Howell's honors and awards include his induction into the PHI ALPHA THETA Honor Society for academic achievement in the Study of History.

He was licensed to preach the Gospel on January 9, 2000. Reverend Howell was ordained into the Christian Ministry under the Rev. Nathaniel Smith at Third Baptist Church in Springfield, MA on June 28, 2008. His ordination was sanctioned by The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts U.S.A.

Reverend Howell was a member of Antioch Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro, MD, under the Rev. Tyrone C. Petty, Pastor, where he was the Chair of the Christian Education Ministry, an instructor for children's discipleship and co-instructor for a course designed to train counselors and ministers in the church. Currently, Reverend Howell is a member of Zion Church in Landover, MD under Pastor Keith Battle.

Reverend Howell is married to Lisa D. Howell and resides with their family in Bowie, MD.

Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee
Speaker



The Rev. Dr. Asa Lee was born in Suffolk, England, and is the product of a loving home where his mother and grandmother instilled in him the values of pride and integrity that are guiding him through his life and ministry.

Rev. Dr. Lee was licensed by the Faith Shepherd Baptist Church of Washington, DC, and ordained by the Mount Olive Baptist Church of Arlington, Virginia, where he served for 10 years as the Assistant Pastor/Minister of Christian Education. Dr. Lee currently serves as Associate Dean for Campus Life and Director of African American Church Studies at Wesley Theological Seminary. In this capacity, he is responsible for the programmatic, academic and spiritual life of seminary students. As the director of Wesley's African American Church Studies, Dr. Lee oversees the academic and vocational partnerships that serve students in the program and coordinates the seminary's partnerships with African American faith communities across the country.

Dr. Lee is a dedicated theological educator and believes strongly in education as the vehicle for expanding one's view of the world. He has served on the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College and is often a guest lecturer at workshops and seminars dealing with Christianity in the 21st century; religious difference; and issues affecting church leadership. He teaches courses in preaching, church leadership and spiritual formation. He is an experienced pastoral administrator and leader and aspires to help others to ground their own leadership in sound Biblical and theological conviction.

Rev. Dr. Lee completed the Doctor of Ministry degree in Educational Leadership at the Virginia Theological Seminary after having earned his Master of Divinity degree cum Laude from Wesley Theological Seminary. He completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, Magna cum Laude from Hampton University. He holds membership in several professional and social organizations, including the American Academy of Religion, the Religious Education Association, the Association of Leadership Educators, and is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Dr. Lee is married to the Reverend Chenda Innis Lee, an Elder in Full Connection in the Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Together they have four beautiful daughters, Akeemah (Pronounced: Ah-key-ma), Jaanaiya (Pronounced: Jah-nye-yah), Cydah (Pronounced: Say-duh) and Camaini (Pronounced: Kah-may-knee).

Stephawn Lindsay

Keynote Speaker



Stephawn Lindsay is a devoted husband to his middle school sweetheart Esha, caring father of two, and Minister of the gospel. He is the Founder & President of Dreams N Reach LLC which exists to build inner city leaders early! His company is home to the first National Christian rapper from Washington D.C, Echelon Knox, who has traveled the world with the eternal message of hope.

Additionally, he is a consultant to Millennial business owners and aspiring owners, and enjoys mentoring young men. Stephawn is known by some as 'Showtime', a nickname that was given to him in his former "Go-Go" days while apart of what was known as one of the top bands in the DMV during his era, 'X.I.B'.

Stephawn's awareness of youth culture, passion for youth, & gift of storytelling combined with has enabled him to be an effective voice to the rising generation. He has held various positions within ministry such as Youth Minister and Creative Director on the Executive team at what was known as one of the largest youth ministries in North America, 'The Merge' beginning at just 21 years of age, connecting with thousands of young people; He served for 3 years as Campus Pastor at Clinton Christian School in Upper Marlboro, Maryland; Stephawn has also had the privilege of serving 3 years on the Executive team for Revolution Church founded in 2014 and located in Washington D.C as associate minister alongside his Mentor Pastor Devin Turner.

In the year 2017, Stephawn was appointed as Youth Minister/Director for Zion Church Landover Campus, led by Senior Pastor Keith Battle, Executive Pastor James Marshal, and Assistant Pastor Larry Paige. Stephawn is grateful for the mentors who prepared him for his early start in ministry, leadership, and business. He hopes to continue to share the gospel and be a light that the rising generation can witness as a testament to God's faithfulness! His story is still being written, but Stephawn looks forward to continuing in his purpose as he encourages others to do the same.

Rev. Mary S. Mims

Speaker



Reverend Mary Mims was born in Detroit, Michigan and is a product of Detroit Catholic Schools. She attended Michigan State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Packaging Engineering. Mary earned a master's degree in Practical Theology at Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University in 2017 and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry, Leadership and Global Perspectives at Portland Seminary.

Reverend Mary received Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior while in college at Michigan State University. There she continued to grow and serve the Lord in campus ministries in both Michigan and later in the Washington, DC area.

Reverend Mary was licensed to preach the gospel in April of 2010 and ordained in March of 2018 at East Washington Heights Baptist Church in Washington, DC under the leadership of Rev. Kip B. Banks. Since 2011, Mary has been serving as the church's Children and Youth Minister.

In addition to serving in the church, Reverend Mary works professionally at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as a Supervisory Technical Information Specialist. She is also the proud mother of Keisha Mims, Esq. who works for the Mayor of Washington, DC. Reverend Mary loves sports, travel, and music.

Reverend Mary has a great desire to see children and youth raised up in the knowledge of Jesus Christ believing the importance of Hosea 4:6, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Reverend Mary works to ensure the children and youth are trained in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and looks forward to them maturing in the faith.

Tameaka Shelton
Speaker



Along with being a Certified John Maxwell speaker, trainer and coach, I've earned several degrees and have over 15 years of experience as an HR Professional! I say this not to impress you...I say it because I realize as people, we'd often prefer to work with credentialed professionals. Nonetheless, I want to be honest and let you know that often the greatest growth and learning I've ever received has come from day-to-day life experiences! One of my favorite experiences along the way has been starting my own business in December of 2014. Becoming an entrepreneur has been an amazing, but also challenging experience at times. In the past year alone, I have doubled my revenue and enjoy supporting my clients every day. I have always been fascinated by the similarities and differences among and between people of all ages, nationalities, etc. I have studied the breakdowns that happen in these relationships whether it's between children and parents, parents and teachers, spouses, employers and employees, or church members and leaders. Most of the breakdowns I've witnessed were due to power struggles, poor communication, or just a lack of information! I truly believe that we can all learn and grow from one another. Often, to support one another through successes we must mend some of the breakdowns we've had in our relationships. We all have areas where there have been breakdowns and a loss of power. Perhaps you've experienced the feeling of being disrespected in an intimate relationship or the feeling of being misunderstood by an employer. Maybe your team doesn't listen when you provide guidance. It's time to take your power back! When I say "power", I am not talking about being domineering or arrogant, I am talking about being purposeful, confident and tenacious. Who are you being in your relationships with others? Who really has the power? If you are anything like I was, power always shifted...but was never really with me.