



The Inauguration and Installation of **The Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III**
as the tenth president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

"Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story"

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

2:30 p.m.

Spalding University

Columbia Gym Auditorium



This program is presented in partnership with



FESTIVAL of FAITHS
CENTER for INTERFAITH RELATIONS

WHOSOEVER: A DIVINE INVITATION

To celebrate the installation and inauguration of the Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III as Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary's tenth president, Louisville Seminary presents a series of events that celebrates the unconditional and everlasting love that God has for all people of every creed, color, gender, sexual orientation, and circumstance. And so the Louisville Seminary Community accepts the invitation, the challenges, and the rewards of emphasizing "Whosoever: A Divine Invitation" as the foundation for engaging the world and building bridges between God and humanity.

"Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story"

Welcome

Chandra Irvin

Introduction

Martin Doblmeier

Film Screening

Panel Discussion

The Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III

Dr. Luther E. Smith, Jr.

Martin Doblmeier

Audience Q&A

Closing

PANELISTS



Luther E. Smith, Jr., Ph.D. is professor emeritus of church and community at the Candler School of Theology of Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia), where he served on the faculty for thirty-five years. Dr. Smith writes and speaks extensively on issues of church and society, congregational renewal, meanings and dynamics of community, interfaith cooperation, Christian spirituality, and the thought of Howard Thurman. He is the author of *Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet and Intimacy* and *Mission: Intentional Community as Crucible for Radical Discipleship*. He is also editor of *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings* and *The Pan-Methodist Social Witness Resource Book*.

Dr. Smith helped to found the International Community School that has as its mission educational excellence for children who have experienced the traumas of war and violence. He is also a founder of the Interfaith Children's Movement (Georgia) that educates, mobilizes, and networks faith communities in being advocates for all children. He currently serves as the coordinator for the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty that mobilizes the churches and theological schools of six Methodist denominations to be active in service to and advocacy for children in poverty.



Martin Doblmeier is the director of "Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story." He holds degrees in religious studies, broadcast journalism and honorary degrees in fine arts and humane letters. Since 1984 Doblmeier has produced and directed more than 30 films focused on religion, faith, and spirituality. He combines a lifelong interest in religion with a passion for storytelling. Over the years, he has traveled on location to more than forty countries to profile numerous religious leaders, spiritual communities, heads of state, and Nobel

Laureates. His films explore how belief can lead individuals to extraordinary acts, how spirituality creates and sustains communities and how faith is lived in extraordinary ways.

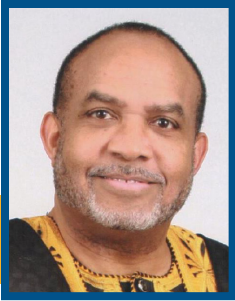
The Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard III is the president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. (see full bio on reverse)

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Judy Stubbs (MDiv/MAMFT '97) *event committee chair*
Louisville Seminary Alum Board of Directors

Chandra Irvin (MDiv '15)
Executive Director
Center for Peace and Spiritual Renewal, Spalding University

Liz Anderson
Program Coordinator
Center for Peace and Spiritual Renewal, Spalding University



The Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III

President and Professor of Religion and Culture
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

On June 7, 2018, the Louisville Seminary Board of Trustees appointed the Rev. Dr. Alton B. Pollard, III as Louisville Seminary's tenth president. Pollard formally began his service with Louisville Seminary on September 3, 2018.

A scholar, author, consultant, and speaker on the subject of African American and U.S. religion and culture, Pollard was previously dean of the School of Divinity and professor of Religion and Culture at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Pollard said he was drawn both by the history and the current trajectory of Louisville Seminary.

"Rare is the theological institution today that innovates well in contemporary society, modeling theological education for just inclusivity in an increasingly diverse world," Pollard said. "As much of our society is focused on division, I will ensure that Louisville Seminary will continue to build bridges between people of different religious, social, and cultural perspectives, through teaching and scholarship, and the preparation of persons for lives of faithful witness and public service."

Prior to his eleven years at Howard University, Pollard served as director of Black Church Studies and chair of American Religious Cultures at Emory University, and taught at Wake Forest University and St. Olaf College. He earned degrees from Duke University, Harvard University Divinity School, and Fisk University.

Pollard is the author of *Mysticism and Social Change: The Social Witness of Howard Thurman* (1992); editor of an edition of W.E.B. DuBois's *The Negro Church* (2011); and co-author of *Helpers for a Healing Community: A Pastoral Care Manual for HIV/AIDS* (2006). He has also edited and co-edited several volumes including *How Long This Road: Race, Religion and the Legacy of C. Eric Lincoln* (2003); *The Papers of Howard Washington Thurman Volumes I and II* (2009); and *The Black Church Studies Reader* (2016). He has also written dozens of book chapters, journal articles, and op-eds.

He serves on the Board of Directors for the In Trust Center for Theological Schools and the Advisory Committee for the Luce Fund for Theological Education. He served on the Board of Commissioners for the Association of Theological Schools from 2010-2016 and was chair from 2014-2016. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Pollard and his wife, Jessica, have two adult children and one grandson.

