

ALTON B. POLLARD, III

Alton B. Pollard, III, is Dean and Professor of Religion and Culture of Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, DC. He holds degrees from Fisk University (B.A. with honors in religion & philosophy and business management), Harvard University Divinity School (M.Div.), and Duke University, the Department of Religion (Ph.D.). He has held previous faculty appointments at St. Olaf College, Wake Forest University, and Emory University, where he also served as Director of the Program of Black Church Studies at Candler School of Theology.

Dr. Pollard has published widely in the areas of religion and culture. He is the author of *Mysticism and Social Change*, and a new introduction to W.E.B. DuBois's, *The Negro Church*; the editor of *Black Church Studies: An Interdisciplinary Anthology* (forthcoming), *How Long This Road: Race, Religion and the Legacy of C. Eric Lincoln* with L. Henry Whelchel, and consulting editor of the multi-volume Howard Thurman Papers Project, *The Sound of the Genuine*; co-author, The Balm in Gilead's *Helpers for a Healing Community: A Pastoral Care Manual for HIV/AIDS* (on-line); and former associate editor of the journal *Black Sacred Music*. An ordained Baptist minister, he is the former pastor of John Street Baptist Church (MA), New Red Mountain Baptist Church (NC), and Bell Buckle and Hopewell A.M.E. Churches (TN). Pollard is a former associate minister of Trinity Tabernacle Baptist Church in Mableton, GA, and board member and consultant to numerous organizations. He and his wife Jessica Bryant Pollard, a school counselor, have two adult children, a son, Brooks, and daughter, Asha.

Dr. Pollard specializes in the following areas:

African American Religion and Culture, Sociology of the Black Church, Southern African Studies, Pan-Africanist Religious Thought, American Religious Cultures, Sociology of Religion.

Recent presentations include:

- "Liturgy, Justice, and the Future of the Black Church," The ITC, March 2007.
- "Challenging and Critiquing Patriarchy in the Black Church," Wake Forest University, October 2006.
- "From Civil Rights to Hip-Hop," Drew University, November 2005.
- "The Time to Act is Now: AIDS and the Church in South Africa," South Africa, May 2004.
- "A Theological Call to Action: Responding to AIDS in Africa," Tanzania, January 2004.

Recent publications include:

- "Spirituality among African American Cancer Survivors," co-author with Jill Hamilton, et al, in *Cancer Nursing*: 30, no.4 (May 2007).
- "Wade in the Water: A Meditation on Race, Class, and Katrina," in *The Sky is Crying: Race, Class, and Natural Disaster*, Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, ed. (Abingdon, 2006)
- "Letter to Martin," in *Frequently Asked Questions about Sexuality, the Bible and the Church*, Ted Smith, ed. (The Covenant Network of Presbyterians, 2006).
- "Foreword" to *The Hip Hop Church* by Efrem Smith and Phil Jackson (Intervarsity Press, 2006).
- "Black Churches, Black Empowerment, and Atlanta's Civil Rights Legacy," in *Black Churches and Local Politics*. R. Drew Smith, ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005).

Recent recognitions include:

- Faculty Person of the Year, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, 2002.
- "On Eagle's Wings" Excellence in Teaching Award, Candler School of Theology, 2002.
- International Collegium of Scholars, Morehouse College, 2000.
- Charles C. Ross Award for Outstanding Community Leadership, Winston-Salem State University, 1998.