



Biography
Rev. Shively T. J. Smith
Professor of New Testament Studies
Wesley Theological Seminary
African Methodist Episcopal Church

Reverend Shively T. J. Smith has been actively working in the arenas of ministry and academia for over 17 years. She was called to the ministry in 1997 at the age of 16 at Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Louisville, KY under Rev. Benny Williams. A few years later, Smith was also licensed by Nebo Christian Ministries under Bishop Larry E. Williams in Baltimore, MD. Since then, she has worked with various church organizations and denominations from Baptist, to Pentecostal, non-denominational, and Methodist. In these spaces, she has worked in various areas of ministry such as: college ministry, women's ministry, church education, couples ministry, evangelism, and preaching and prayer. Now, she is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is a member of Greater Smith Chapel AME, guided by Pastor Toni Belin Ingram in Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to church ministry, Reverend Smith has worked devotedly in the arena of higher education in religion for over 12 years. She has taught courses in New Testament and Biblical Greek, among others. She has served as faculty for a variety of special programs, such as the United Methodist Course of Study Program and the Certificate in Theological Studies Program at Arrendale State Prison for Women, which is supported by ATA-affiliated schools.

Smith's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in religious and philosophical studies from Fisk University where she graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She then went on to earn a Masters of Divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and a second degree, a Masters of Theological studies, from Columbia Theological Seminary. Smith was also awarded an international fellowship to study theology at Oxford University in England as an English-Speaking Union Luard Scholar. In 2002-03, she was honored by Essence Magazine and named one of "The Ten Most Incredible College Students" in the USA.

Rev. Smith has completed her dissertation in New Testament Studies at Emory University and anticipates a successful defense by the end of the semester. Her dissertation is called, "Live as Strangers in Your Own Land: The Letter of 1 Peter and Diaspora Discourse." Her work has been supported by organizations such as the Louisville Institute, the Ford Foundation, the Fund for Theological Education, the Mellon Mays Fellowship Program, Black Women in Church and Society Program, and the Social Science Research Council. Her research interests include: Studies on Peter and Peter's Letters, Luke-Acts, Call Narratives, and biblical discourses on diaspora.

She has contributed to multiple writing projects and series, including the *Feasting on the Gospels* series and *Reading & Writing Theologically* series. Smith is currently working on a couple of academic projects related to her dissertation and her interest in call narratives in the Bible. Smith also does a lot of independent writing and blogging about graduate work, applying for scholarships and fellowships, studying the bible as well as offering independent bible study podcasts through her website: www.shivelysmith.com and providing presentations and sermons in variety of venues. Smith is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.