

**Biography**  
**Rev. Dr. Shively T. J. Smith**  
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*Full Narrative Biography (\*Note: First paragraph may serve as shorter version, less than 100-word summary).*

**\*Reverend Doctor Shively T. J. Smith** serves as Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology (Boston, MA), having served in that capacity at Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC) for several years. She completed her Ph.D. in New Testament Studies at Emory University as the first African American female degreed in that specialization. Furthermore, she recently published her first book called, *Strangers to Family: Diaspora and First Peter's Invention of God's Household* with Baylor University Press and is completing a commentary on Second Peter for SBL Press. Smith is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church where she proudly serves as member and resident scholar at the historic Cathedral of the AME Church, Metropolitan AME Church (Washington, DC).

Since her graduation, Smith has emerged as a sought after teacher, preacher, writer, and scholar who is dedicated to the service of academic theological studies and ecumenical conversations across multiple arenas. As a scholar of New Testament, Smith writes and teaches on all 27 books of the New Testament, but her particular focus is on the traditions of Peter, diaspora and cultural studies, approaches to biblical interpretation (hermeneutics), Womanist and African American biblical interpretation, and issues related to the treatment of and hospitality to “strangers,” locally and globally. She has contributed to multiple writing projects and series, including *Feasting on the Gospels*, *Reading & Writing Theologically*, and the forthcoming series, *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship*. She is a regular contributor to the online Working Preacher Lectionary series and the Odyssey Network’s “On Scripture” online series and “Odyssey Impact” campaigns. Smith has taught and preached in a variety of venues such as Princeton Theological Seminary’s Engle Institute of Preachers (Princeton, NJ), Foundry UMC (Washington, DC), the Academy of Preachers (AOP), the National Capital Presbytery, the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR), Festival of Homiletics, several annual conferences for the United Methodist Church (UMC), and more.

Smith has studied at a variety of institutions, including: Fisk University (Nashville, TN), Emory University Candler School of Theology (Atlanta, GA), Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA), and at Oxford University (Oxford, UK) as an English-Speaking Union Luard Fellow. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion, Association for Jewish Studies, and the Society for the Study of Black Religion. Smith’s work has been supported by organizations such as the Louisville Institute, the Ford Foundation, The Fund for Theological Education, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, Black Women in Church and Society Program, the Social Science Research Council, and the Mellon Mays Fellowship Program.

Smith’s service-oriented vocation encompasses both academic and ministerial capacities. She has been actively working in ministry for 20 years, entering the ministry at the age of 16 and working with a range of church organizations and denominations from Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, and non-denominational. Early in her academic and ministerial work, she was named by Essence Magazine “One of the Ten Most Incredible College Students.” Since then, she has gone on to serve as one of the members of the Status of

Women in the Profession for the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). Currently, she serves on SBL's Women in the Bible Steering Committee and the Emory Studies in Early Christianity editorial board for SBL Press. She has served as a national mentor for the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) and has been recognized as an outstanding alumna and mentor by IRT's Maryland Alumni Chapter and the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Professorial Position:** Assistant Professor of New Testament at Boston University School of Theology (Boston, MA)
- **Research Interests:** Traditions of the Apostle Peter; the General Letters of the New Testament; diaspora and cultural studies; approaches to biblical interpretation (hermeneutics); biblical treatments of “strangers;” and Womanist and African American biblical interpretation
- **Workshop/Teaching/Presentation Themes:** “Exploring our Callings;” “Re-Imagining our Practices of Interpretation;” “Pondering the Parables”
- **Book:** *Strangers to Family: Diaspora and 1 Peter’s Invention of God’s Household* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2016)
- **Essay:** “One More Time with Assata on my Mind: A Womanist Rereading of the Escape to Egypt (Matt 2:13-23) in Dialogue with an African American Woman Fugitive Narrative,” in *Womanist Biblical Interpretation: Expanding the Discourse*, Semeia Series, edited by Vanessa Lovelace and Gay Byron, forthcoming Fall 2016.
- **Essay:** “Writing Briefly,” in *Writing Theologically, Foundations for Learning*, edited by Eric Barreto (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015), 45-58.
- **Commentary Contribution:** “Mark 10:46-52: Exegetical Perspective” and “Mark 11:1-10: Exegetical Perspective” in *Feasting on the Gospels—Mark: A Feasting on the Word Commentary*, edited by Cynthia Jarvis and Elizabeth Johnson (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2014).
- **Lectionary Contribution:** “Commentary on 1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57,” for May 8, 2016. Working Preacher Online Revised Common Lectionary Commentary Series. ([https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2596](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2596))
- **Lectionary Contribution:** “Voices in the Wilderness” (Listening to John the Baptist & #SayHerName Campaign),” on via Odyssey Network On Scripture Series. 2nd Advent Commentary, December 4, 2016. <http://www.onscripture.com/voices-wilderness>
- **Lectionary Contribution:** “Manifested Hospitality for the greater Good (John 2:1-11),” on via Odyssey Network On Scripture Series. January 17, 2016. (<http://www.onscripture.com/veterans-day-war-every-shore>)
- **Ecclesial Location:** Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and resident scholar at the historic Cathedral of the AME Church, Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, DC.
- **Smith Mission Statement:** “Ever since I was 16, I’ve been a student of the Bible and other sacred texts. Dedicated to the life of the mind and heart, I go about my work as a scholar and teacher of biblical texts and histories with hopes of making a difference in the world that speaks informed, courageous, and spirit-filled truth. I’m proud to have studied and collaborated with some of the most committed and educated scholars, teachers, and preachers in theological education, the Church universal, and beyond. Each day, I aim to grow in my understanding and faith to create bridges for people from different walks of life to talk to each other. We must develop our capacities and commitments to learn from each other and to affirm the human dignity we each are entitled to as God’s creation. I come alive when I am learning with others and the Bible is my way of entering that learning and conversation space. I hope you join me sometime in that journey be it in my writing, teaching, or preaching. Let us learn and grow together faithfully.”