

REV. DR. ANGELIQUE K. WALKER-SMITH CV SUMMARY

Overview

The Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is Senior Associate for Pan African and Orthodox Faith Engagement at Bread for the World (“Bread”) based in Washington D.C. The focus of her global and domestic theological agenda and public policy work is with Pan African, Baptist, Orthodox and ecumenical/interfaith faith communities. She brings extensive global, national and local public experience as a faith thought leader, theologian, mission strategist and implementer, public policy activist, journalist, speaker, scholar, faculty member and author. Her work has included matters of faith and public life with concern for matters related to race, gender, hunger, poverty and Christian unity that celebrates diversity. Walker-Smith has also served as the Executive Director/Minister of The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, one of the oldest Council of Churches in the world founded in 1912 where she was also engaged in joint mission and advocacy work. She has also served on the pastoral leadership teams at churches in New York City (Harlem), Hartford, CT, Indianapolis, Indiana and Alexandria, VA.

Educational Background

Walker-Smith received her doctorate degree from Princeton Theological Seminary where she advanced the groundbreaking work on the theological concept of hospitality considering the context of formerly incarcerated women and their re-entry to society and the faith community. It is often cited today in work addressing mass incarceration and women of African descent. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Broadcast Journalism/Telecommunications with a minor in dance/theatre and certification in religious studies at Kent State University. She also took extensive classes at the Institute for Pan African Studies that commended her to Yale Divinity School for further study with this lens. She attended and graduated from public and private schools for her primary and secondary education.

Professor, Visiting Scholar, Lecturer, Supervisor of Contextual Learning

Walker-Smith is also a Senior Fulbrighter with the US State Department and has served as an Adjunct Professor, guest lecturer and Visiting Scholar at various Universities and Seminaries such as Georgetown University, American Academy of Religion (AAR) Yale University Divinity School, Princeton University, Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan University-Seminary, Howard University, Payne Theological Seminary, Kumba Theological Seminary in Cameroon, the University of London, Payne Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Seminary and the Bossey Institute/University of Geneva (Switzerland). She has served as a supervisor of ministry with many schools like Howard University Divinity School, Princeton Theological Seminary, ITC, Christian Theological Seminary, Taylor University, IUPUI, Indiana Wesleyan University Seminary and Hartford Seminary. She has spoken at such major global conferences associated with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC-CETA), World Council of Churches, United Nations meeting at The Hague, the Religious Freedom Center (2019) the University of Geneva/ Bossey Institute and regularly addresses Pan African Church and ecumenical communities regarding her Pan African work. One of her major intellectual and ministry projects has been a partnership of Bread with the World Council of Churches- and the African Union to further the engagement of Pan African Women of Faith in Africa and the Africa Diaspora. The Pan African Women of Faith/Pan African Women’s Ecumenical Empowerment Network (PAWEEN) project was the focus of 2017 seminar at Bossey Institute/University of Geneva where she served as the Co-Organizer/professor of the seminar. A new groundbreaking scholarly publication resulted in the WCC Ecumenical Review journal in partnership with the Bossey Institute-University of Geneva and the WCC Commission on Ecumenical Theological Education in 2019.

Publications

Since 2014, Walker-Smith has written a monthly Pan African column on faith and public policy issues in African American newspapers, religious periodicals at Bread for the World. Her most recent 2020 publication includes a timely article on Pan-African Women of Faith: Lifting Our Voices and Votes to End Hunger and Poverty in the new book, *2020 Vision: American Theologians on the Voice, Vote, and Vision of Women* on Fortress Press. Another upcoming article addressing 1619: 400 years of the forced immigration of Africans to Jamestown, Virginia is expected in the new book, *Religion and Racial Justice* on Fordham Press. She also has a pending article addressing *The Changing Religious and Ecumenical Landscape Has a Pan African Future* on Armenian Orthodox Church Press in Beirut, Lebanon, and a new devotional reflection on “Rachel is Mourning and Weeping: Are you listening?” In a new African American women’s devotional published by Our Daily Bread.

In October 2019, she served as the co-editor and author of two articles in the *Ecumenical Review Journal-World Council* that featured the theme of *Pan –African Women of Faith and a Vision of Inclusive Global Theological Education*. She is the editor of the *Bread for the World devotional, Lament and Hope: A Pan African Devotional Guide Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial Centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples to Jamestown, Virginia (USA)* circulated globally on both digital and paperback platforms. This timely devotional debuted in February 2019. It was the lead story in the Religious News Service on February 27th, 2019: <https://religionnews.com/2019/02/27/biblical-guide-marks-400-years-since-enslaved-africans-arrived-invirginia/>. In 2018 her devotional entitled, *In Times Like These: A Weekly Pan African Devotional Guide* written in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King & the Poor People’s Campaign (<http://files.bread.org/faith-resources/pan-african-devotional-guide-january-2018.pdf>) was published.

Her additional writings include the book, *Faith in the City*, numerous scholarly journal and op-ed publications. She was a reviewer for the Jubilee Bible (African American focus) from the American Bible Society. In October 2016, her article about African Christianity and the Historic African American Churches debuted in the pioneering new global work, *the Anthology on African Christianity*. Her publication addressing “*The Legacy, Leadership and Hope of Pan African Women of Faith in Building Sustainable Just Communities as a Missional Focus*” was published in the *International Review of Mission* which was used in preparation for the world Christian World Mission and Evangelism conference in Tanzania in 2018. For the last 10 years, she has been conducting on research Pan African Women of Faith in the early global ecumenical movement. She is in the process of writing her manuscript about this this. She is also a contributor to a book that addressed faith leaders’ perspectives on the legacy of President Obama entitled *Mr. President: Interfaith Perspectives on the Historic Presidency of Barack Obama in 2016*. She is also contributed an article on *Shifting the Paradigm of Prison Ministry with Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Female Youth of African Descent* for in an urban ministry anthology on Westminster Press in 2018.

Ecumenical and Interfaith Experience

She has been the Ecumenical Representative, Co-Chair of the Restructuring Committee, Vice Chair for the Home Mission Board that actively supports the Foreign Mission Board, and a Criminal Justice Commission member for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She was the first ordained woman to serve in these roles and first ordained woman to address the “Convention.” She continues to serve and has spoken and preached in many local, national and global ecumenical and interfaith settings. She was installed into the Morehouse Academy of Preachers. She has served the Presidents of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc as an ecumenical advisor and representative to various church bodies nationally and globally and served as co-chair of former President Shaw’s “Convention” restructuring committee.

She is a past and present member of the Central Committee (top governing body) of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and first woman President of Christian Churches Together (CCT) -for Historic Black Churches serving with

four other Co-Presidents from the Catholic (US Catholic Conference of Bishops), Orthodox, Pentecostal/Evangelical and Historic Mainline national churches: She <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/rev-drangelique-walker-smith-named-president-of-the-historic-black-family-of-christian-churches-together>. She has a long relationship with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) as an ecumenical mission partner with Pan African young adults African American national church leaders. She has also been a presenter at their Assemblies.

Walker-Smith was ordained at Convent Avenue Baptist Church in New York, New York (Harlem). After this she became full-time Associate Pastor of Central Baptist Church. She left there to become the first woman and youngest Executive Minister of the Trenton Ecumenical Area Ministry (TEAM) and later The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. After completing doctoral studies. In addition to her pastoral work at Convent Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, she served as full-time Associate Pastor at the multi-cultural/national church of Central Baptist Church in Hartford, CT, a Co-Pastor at Christ's Open Door Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana and currently an Associate Minister at Beulah Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA.

Extensive Global Experience (Operation Crossroads Africa, Baptist World Alliance, Fulbright Professor-US State Department, United Nations, World Council of Churches)

Walker-Smith has lived in five African countries (South Africa, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Lesotho) and travelled to 32 African countries and to countries throughout the world on every continent except Antarctica engaging mission and public policy priorities (national and international) that empower and accompany communities affected by historic and current inequitable economic systems that help create and promote hunger and poverty in marginalized communities. This work has been grounded in academic and practical experiences of having lived and served in rural and traditional communities as well as urban communities affected by this domestically and globally. This practical experience includes having served in rural traditional villages in Africa with Operations Crossroads Africa and setting up projects for them. Further, this lived experience has included teaching as a Senior Fulbrighter in Cameroon and Fellow of the Louisville Institute in South Africa for research and writing.

In 2020 she returned to Ethiopia to engage leaders at the African Union about a new global faith and policy initiative addressing the urgencies of Africans and Africans in Diaspora communities today and in the future in light of a revisiting of the Pan African Congresses in the early to mid-1900's. This led to the independence of African and Caribbean nations and a vision of Civil Rights in the USA. The 1945 Manchester, England conference is the focus. She was also in consultations in Kenya with South Sudanese faith and other civic leaders to make ecumenical and interfaith recommendations about the new peace agreement that the Pope mediated at the Vatican. South Sudanese women and girls were also the focus.

In 2019 she was in Japan where she addressed a global consultation on the Future of Ecumenism and growth of Christianity in Africa, Latin America and Asia from a "global south perspective." Her presentation featured the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Quad-Centennial. In 2018 she was a keynote speaker and seminar leader on Pan African communities, migration, immigration, race and gender at the global Mission and Evangelism conference in Arusha, Tanzania. In 2016 and 2018 she addressed the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Trondheim, Norway and Geneva, Switzerland (respectively) where approximately 200 national churches from countries throughout the world gathered to take church and public action. This included her serving as Convener of the Pan African faith leaders present. In 2016 she addressed an international conference at the University of London where she addressed transatlantic Pan African conferees about concerns concerning the passage of the Africa Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA), child hunger and the empowerment of women and girls and the role of faith. This was followed by her participation in the UN CEDAW hearings in Geneva as part of a global faith network gathering. In 2017 she addressed the Transatlantic roundtable conference at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad/Tobago on matters addressing Pan African Churches and the Black Vote in the 2016 USA election year. She is also a member of the General Council of the Baptist World Alliance.

Public Life, Policy Advocate and Organizer (US Congress, United Nations)

Her public policy work at “Bread” engages the faith community and national public policymakers with a Pan African and Ecumenical lens. One example of this is “Bread’s” work on the recent reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) and passage of SNAP. She was also a “Bread” leader in the advocacy for the reauthorization of the Africa Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA) -African Women’s Empowerment Partnership (AWEP) in 2015 and works with networks to promote advocacy with Pan African communities. She has been Co-Convener of the African American/Pan African Working Group for “Bread” and has brought this leadership to the development of their 2030 Strategic Plan and their Campaign Steering. She brings Pan African leaders to Capitol Hill for the annual “Bread” Advocacy Summit and its Pan African Consultation annually. She is also a “Bread” leader in relating to the Congressional Black Caucus and voice for a Pan African lens and racial equity framing on Bread’s legislative agenda policies (domestic and globally) that includes global nutrition with a focus on child and maternal health, immigration, criminal justice and jobs (work with dignity) in 2019.

In 2018 she was the moderator of the WCC national church leaders’ meeting at the United Nations engaging the UN Decade in Solidarity with People of African Descent with its Commission and Special Rapporteur on Racism. This resulted in a strategy for a special visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism. The initial sign on letter was delivered to the US Secretary of State requesting the visit on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21st). Related to this strategy is Walker-Smith’s role of co-drafters of the related report of US racial inequities for the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council in April or May 2020. The reports from civil society are due in the summer of 2019.

She was a part of a World Bank panel speaking to issues related to Pan African Women of Faith at its Spring meetings in 2018 in Washington, DC and at the 2017 Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. Such work also includes advancing the proposals of the 2015 Bread for the World Hunger report concerning hunger and women’s empowerment. The name of the report is “When Women Flourish, We Can End Hunger” found at <http://hungerreport.org/2015/full-report/>. She has been a convener and presenter at Congressional briefings relative to this report and its intersection with faith and Pan African women. In 2016 she was the visionary and organizer of the inaugural Pan African Women of Faith International Consultation convened by “Bread” for the World, World Council of Churches and Howard University Office of the Dean of the Chapel.

In 2016 she convened the Faith Consultation with Faith Engagement and Institute partners for “Bread” 2017 Hunger Report addressing issues related to fragility. She also convened public policy and faith forums on hunger and poverty at the Indiana State House in Indianapolis, Indiana and Tuskegee University (with rural and urban communities), as well as in Dayton, Ohio (in preparation for the 2016 Presidential national debate). These fora included space for candidates for public office (Mayoral candidates in Indianapolis), local and state public policy leaders, Congressional leaders, faith leaders, and various grassroots and grass top leaders to address public policy issues addressing hunger and poverty. The Forum in Indianapolis led to a national resolution that was adopted by the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), <http://www.bread.org/blog/group-black-state-legislators-pledges-endhunger>.

Extensive Media Leadership Experience

Walker-Smith has made many global and national television appearances. Walker-Smith’s media work has included being host of the television show, Faces of Faith with the ABC affiliate in Indiana and PAX television, national cohost with actress Mariette Hartley on the Odyssey/Hallmark show, the Big Matinee, where she provided ethical and lively perspectives on movies. She has been a guest radio host with Radio One which is the leading African American radio network in the USA. In 2013 she was the global television/ live stream morning anchor and talk show host on the plenary on Justice at the 10th Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Busan, Korea. As anchor she interviewed global religious leaders such as Nobel Peace Prize winner from Liberia, Lehmah Gbowee

and played a critical role in the development of the daily show that was also broadcasted on Korean Christian television. The show and plenary received global critical acclaim. She has appeared on CNN, Good Morning America and in Black Enterprise magazine, Ebony magazine and Jet magazine. Her op-ed column on religion and society has appeared in the leading newspaper in Indiana, the Indianapolis Star and the Indianapolis Recorder (African American newspaper). Her column still appears there in her current work with her Bread for the World monthly column.

Awards and Recognitions

She has received many awards and recognitions, including from President Clinton, Senator Richard Lugar, and two of her alma maters, Yale University Divinity School and Kent State University. President and Mrs. Obama invited her to be a part of the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington White House events and she was regularly invited to various briefings and conversations related to the Executive Branch's public policy agenda She received the highest and most prestigious award in Indiana, the Sagamore of the Wabash, in 2014 from newly elected Vice President/Indiana Governor Michael Pence. Her history making video archive (Historymakers project of African American pioneers based out of Chicago) has been selected to be a part of the permanent collection at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. In 2019 she received the World Social Changer Award from Ambassador Suzanne Johnson.

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