

Gary F. Green II
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and Social Transformation
Director and Racial Intelligence Systems
United Theological Seminary

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Education

Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX Aug. 2020
Doctor of Philosophy
Pastoral Theology: Transforming Persons, Communities, and Practices
Dissertation: *Playing the Game: Unmarking “Beast” from the Bodies of Young Black Men (pass with distinction)*
Committee: Drs. Barbara J. McClure (Chair), Nancy J. Ramsay, Gregory C. Ellison, II

Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Shawnee, KS Dec. 2012
Master of Divinity: Homiletics/Social Ethics

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS May 2009
BGS, University of Kansas, Spring 2009
Applied Behavior Science: Youth Development and Juvenile Justice

Professional Experience

Academic Service

Director of Racial Intelligence Systems **Sept. 2025 – Present**

Steering Committee **Nov. 2024 - Present**
Religion, Sport, and Play (AAR)

Co-Founder, Creative Director **Feb. 2023 - Present**
Black Sports Ministry Network

Director of Anti-Racist Initiatives (inaugural) **July 2022 – Aug. 2025**
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology and **July 2024 – Present**

Social Transformation

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology and Social Transformation

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

July 2019 – July 2024

Chair, Pre-Conference Organizing Committee
Society for Pastoral Theology

June 2018 – Jan. 2022

Chair (inaugural), Black Theology Section

Southwest Commission on Religious Studies
American Academy of Religion (regional)

April 2018 – Feb. 2022

Research Assistant – Dr. Esther Mombo

International I Luce Scholar
Brite Divinity School

Jan. 2014 – May 2014

Teaching Assistant – Dean Joretta Marshall, Ph.D.

Brite Divinity School

Aug. 2013 – Dec. 2013

“The Ministry of Pastoral Care”

- Lecture/Discussion leadership topics:
 - o “Family, Marriage, and Divorce”
 - o “Addictions”

Corporate (Consulting) Experience

Children’s Hospital Minnesota
www.childrensmn.org

Nov. 2022 – Present

Dacotah Bank
www.dacotahbank.com

June 2022

EBSCO
www.ebsco.com

May 2021

MDA
www.mdsleadership.com

Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2021

Mortensen
www.mortensen.com

Jan. 2020 – Sept. 2020

Sleep Number
www.sleepnumber.com

Dec. 2020

Non-profit (consulting) experience

Resident Theologian / Director of Christian Education **Jan. 2015 – Dec. 2015**

Imani Church, Fort Worth, Texas

- Reconstructed theological commitments
 - o Renewed African cultural & social justice ethos
- Taught/led social justice-oriented bible studies

Resident Expert: Religion & Culture

Jan. 2015 – Aug. 2016

ThaRealityIs Internet Radio Show

Chaplain Intern

May 2013 – Dec. 2013

Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence, KS

- Palliative Care / Rehab Units
- Monthly Ethics Committee Meetings

Associate Pastor

Sep. 2009 – April 2013

Ninth Street Missionary Baptist Church, Lawrence, KS

- Assistant to Senior Pastor
- Regular Preaching and Bible Study Leadership
- Founded and led Y.A.M. (young adults' ministry)

Kinship Specialist

Jan. 2011 – April 2013

TFI Family Services, Inc., Topeka, KS

- Conducted searches for relatives of children in custody
- Inspected homes of prospective relative foster homes

Family Support Worker

Nov. 2009 – Jan. 2011

TFI Family Services, Inc., Topeka, KS

- Coordinated all parent/relative visitation
- Monitored and documented all visitation
- Assisted in developing parental treatment plans

Scholarly Contributions

Publications

Green II, Gary F. [*Playing the Game: Embodied Brilliance Beyond the Moral Limits of Race in Sport*](#) (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2025). ISBN: 979-8-8898-3358-1

Green II, Gary F. "A Call to Mediate... the Need to Understand." In *Waking to the Holy: Sermons from the 2011 National Festival of Young Preachers*, edited by Lee Huckleberry, 54-58. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2011. Also published in: *From Generation to Generation: A Commemorative Collection of African American Millennial Sermons from the Festivals of Young Preachers 2010-2015*, edited by Winterbourne L. Harrison-Jones, Chapter 34. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2015.

Public Voice

Guest preacher – "Conjuring the Mind(set) of (a) Christ"

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
November 16, 2025

Guest Teacher

"Reclaiming the Comedic Dimensions of Christ in Pursuit of Liberation"
Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Minneapolis, MN
February 2025

Guest Lecturer, Navigating our World (The Black Scholar Series)

"Reclaiming the Comedic in Pursuit of Justice"
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia
November 8, 2023

Guest, Making It Work: God and Your Work (podcast)

"Black Men in Sports: Rewriting the Narrative"
De Pree Center for Leadership (Fuller Seminary) and Theology of Work Project
Recorded Nov.1, 2023, episode release forthcoming.

Producer and Moderator, Reorienting Ourselves to the Reality of Not Yet (hybrid anti-racism launch event)

A public launch of the second wave of anti-racist initiatives at United Seminary, which included the screening of an original production and a panel conversation on the nature and nurture of white supremacy, as well as an exploration of life in its wake.
Panelists: Dr. Danielle Fuentes Morgan and Terresa Moses
October 23, 2023

Panelist, New Winds of the Spirit: Being Church in a Fractured World (Guelich Lectures)

A lecture series designed to address the nature of faith and activism amid a world fractured by social inequality, political polarization, and climate change; sponsored by Meetinghouse Church, Edina, Minnesota.
April 22-23, 2023

Creator and Moderator, Black Theology 101 & Sports: Reclaiming Resources for Black Athletes (Webinar launch event)

Panelists: Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dr. Kala Flagg, and Sophia Young-Malcolm
February 16, 2023

Guest, Speaking in Parables: A Podcast about the Teachings of Jesus

“Parable of the Talents” (Matthew 25)

Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston Salem, NC

Episode 3, June 16, 2022

Creator and Co-Host, The Soul of Transformation (podcast)

A grant funded (FTE) podcast and curriculum on vocation, justice, and spirituality provided as a resource for college students discerning vocations in activism.

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

- Panelists: Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis, Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy, Jamil Stamschror-Lott, Rev. Dr. Molly T. Marshall

Creator and Moderator, Disrupting White Supremacy (webinar series)

Episode 1: “Seeking Justice, Caring for Community: Preparing for the Days Ahead”

A conversation before the Derek Chauvin trial for the murder of George Floyd that focused on preparing religious and community leaders to respond effectively to their communities’ needs with respect to the re-traumatization during, and the potential public response after the trial ended. March 2, 2021.

- Panelists: Rev. Traci Blackmon, Rev. Steven Belton

Episode 2: “Reimagining Public Safety: Confronting the Problem of Policing”

A conversation that highlighted the perspectives of three local leaders and policy experts on the cultural and structural problems with policing and what is necessary for ensuring public safety, particularly for targeted communities. June 22, 2021.

- Panelists: Rev. Dr. DeWayne Davis, Rev. Nekima Levy Armstrong, J.D., Jaylani Hussein

Presenter / Facilitator, “Sacred Disruptions: Standing with Jesus on the Corner of 38th and Chicago.”

Minnesota Conference UCC, webinar series on racial awareness and justice

Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 15, 2020.

Theological Consultant, MLK, Jr. Commission and March of San Antonio

San Antonio, Texas, January 2016.

Panelist, “Race to Equity: School to Prison Pipeline”

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children

Dallas, Texas, April 7, 2016.

Co-facilitator/Presenter, “A Father’s Promise.” Initiative for mentorship and advocacy for young black men.

Paul Quinn College, Dallas, TX, April 4, 2015

<http://www.afatherspromise.com>

Co-Host, “ThaRealityIs Live”

Absinthe Lounge, Dallas, TX, July 25, 2015

Panelist, “Staying at the Table with Baptists: A Conversation on Baptist Engagement with LGBTQ Issues”

The Cathedral of Hope, Dallas, TX, December 10, 2014.

Co-facilitator, “Effectively Responding to Domestic Violence: Resources for Clergy”

Safe Haven Shelter, Fort Worth, TX, September 10, 2013.

Organizer and Presenter, “Faith and Organ Donation in the Black Church: Participating with the Creator in Giving Life”

St. Luke AME Church, Lawrence, KS, October 11, 2012.

Organizer and Presenter, “What it Means to be ____ in America.”

Interfaith panel presentation and dialogue. University of Kansas, November 26, 2012.

Founder and Project Originator, “KU Men of Merit”

Annually honors men who “redefine masculinity by challenging norms, taking action, and leading by example while making outstanding achievements and contributions to KU and/or the Lawrence community.” (Launched, Spring of 2009 - Current)

Academic Presentations

Presenter, “From Commodification to Communion: A Theological Anthropology of Black Embodiment in Sports and Society”

American Academy of Religion, Annual Study Conference
Boston, Massachusetts, November 24, 2025

Presenter, New Book Panel – *Playing the Game: Embodied Brilliance Beyond the Moral Limits of Race in Sport*

American Academy of Religion, Annual Study Conference
Boston, Massachusetts, November 22, 2025

Presenter, “Embodied Brilliance beyond ‘Beast’-mode: Clarifying a Racialized Misreading of Black Athleticism”

American Academy of Religion, Annual Study Conference
San Antonio, Texas, November 19, 2023

Panelist, “Black Athleticism as (a symbol of) Divine Potential”

Afrofuturism: Through AI, Art X Posthumanism, Conference
Denver, Colorado, November 4, 2023

Presenter, “Playing the Game: Unmarking ‘Beast’ from the Bodies of Young Black Men”

2021 Black Student Athlete Summit
University of Texas (Austin), January 7, 2021

Workshop presenter, “Unmarking the ‘Beast:’ Challenging Scripts of Inhumanity in Young Black Men”

Society for Pastoral Theology, Annual Study Conference
Decatur, Georgia, June 15

Panelist/Presenter, “Say No More: A Theological Response to Harmful Rhetoric, Past and Present”

“Unmarking the Beast: Challenging Scripts of Inhumanity in Young Black Men”
Southwest Commission on Religious Studies/AAR
Irving, Texas, March 10, 2018

Podcast Interviews

Special Episode: Interview with Gary Green – (Two Feminists Annotate the Bible podcast)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/special-episode-interview-with-gary-green/id1139914425?i=1000385051446>

Playing the Game: Unmarking “Beast” from the Bodies of Young Black Men – A Conversation with Gary F. Green II – (The Leadership Center for Social Justice Podcast)
<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/playing-the-game-unmarking-beast-from-the-bodies/id1660971116?i=1000646274413>

Rehumanizing Athletes: God Between the Lines in Sports – (Making it Work: God and Your Work podcast)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/rehumanizing-athletes-god-between-the-lines-in-sports/id1481627211?i=1000660755485>

Select Sermons

Preacher, “Reorienting Ourselves to the Reality of Not Yet”

(Internal) Launch of Anti-Racist Initiatives
United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Preacher, “Welcome to the ‘Twin’ Cities”

Installation of Rev. Christian Briones
Mayflower Church, Minneapolis, MN, October 20, 2019

Preacher, “Between Two Americas”

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Brite Chapel, Fort Worth, TX, January 19, 2016

Preacher, “A Call to Mediate... the Need to Understand.”
Academy of Preachers: Festival of Young Preachers, January 2011.

Courses Taught

Contemporary Approaches to Black Theology: Comedy, Culture, and Conjure
Black and Womanist Theologies
Social Analysis and Community Engagement
Theology for Social Transformation
Theologies of Liberation (D.Min.)
Preaching and Your Public Voice
Christian Ethics
Faith Formation
Unmarking the “Beast:” Care as Social Transformation

Intercultural Formation Experiences

Postcolonial Themes in Pastoral Care (Cuba study trip) Spring 2014

Traveled to Cuba

- Studied the racial politics of Santeria
- Studied politics and theologies of the Cuban Revolution
- Participated in student/faculty dialogues at Matanzas seminary

Shaping Faithful Ministry (Immersion Experience) Feb. 2010 – March 2010

Pilgrimage to Myanmar and Thailand

- Studied contextual theology in Burmese and Thai contexts
- Participated in intercultural and interreligious dialogue
- Studied politics of Buddhism and Burmese culture

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion ([AAR](#))
National Strength and Conditioning Association ([NSCA](#))
Black Sports Ministry Network ([BSMN](#))
Society for Pastoral Theology ([SPT](#))
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. – Ordained Clergy

Research Interests

African Spiritualities
Theologies of Embodiment (and athleticism)
Public Pastoral Theology
Cultural Criticism / Popular Culture
Critical Race and Gender Theories / Black Masculinities
Performance / Performativity / Theological Anthropology

Grants / Fellowships / Honors

Wabash Center Teaching Seminars (regional)	Oct. 2016 – March 2017
Wabash Teaching and Learning Colloquia (Brite)	Oct. 2016 – Feb. 2018
Brite Divinity School Tuition Scholarship Recipient	Aug. 2013 – 2017
CBTS (Central Seminary) - <i>create</i> Scholar (Tuition Schlp.)	Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2012
Univ. of Kansas Athletic Scholarship Recipient	Aug. 2004 – May 2009
Athletic Director's Honor Roll	Dec. 2006 – May 2009
"KU Men of Merit" Founding Honoree	May 2009