
Rev. Dr. Heber Brown, III

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EDUCATION

D.Min, (Church Leadership Excellence), Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC, Spring 2014

M.Div, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA, Spring 2005

B.S., Psychology, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD, Spring 2002

WORK HISTORY

Academic Experience

- Faculty, *Transformational Leadership In The Black Community*, Methodist Theological School In Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, July 25-29, 2022
- Adjunct Professor, *Black Church Traditions Related To Land, Food, and Racial Agency*, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, January 11-15, 2021
- Presenter, *Eating Together Faithfully*, Methodist Theological School In Ohio, Delaware, Ohio, November 6, 2020
- Course Instructor, *Mission-Shaped Church*, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA, April-May, 2020
- Course Instructor, *From Soil to Sanctuary: Providing Fresh Produce and Quality Food To Build Wellness in Church and Community*, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA, January-February, 2020
- Presenter, Black History Month - History of Black food and land sovereignty, Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, NE, February 10-12, 2020
- Lecturer, *Race, Class and Baltimore Food Systems*, Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, February 7, 2020

- Presenter, *Profile of the Black Church Food Security Network*, Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, January 28, 2020
- Adjunct Professor, *Land, Food and Faith Formation* Track, Doctor of Ministry Program, Memphis Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN, January 7-11, 2019
- Practitioner-In-Residence, *Enlivening The Church, Repairing The World: Two Case Studies in Agriculture, Food Justice, and Religious Leadership*, Master of Divinity Program, Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston-Salem, NC, February 5-11, 2018

Professional Experience

- Executive Director, Black Church Food Security Network, 2015-present
- Executive Director, Orita's Cross Freedom School, 2010-present
- Pastor, Pleasant Hope Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD, 2008-2022
- Project Coordinator, Maryland Mentoring Partnership, Baltimore, MD, 2004-2008
- Assistant Project Coordinator, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, 2002-2004
- Research Assistant, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD 2000-2001

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Religion, Food & Black Culture,” The 6th Annual Healthy Churches 2020 National Conference, November 2019

“Beyond Food Charity: An Asset-Based Approach To Food Security,” Third Episcopal District Holy Convocation and Planning Conference of African Methodist Episcopal Church, November 2019

“The Black Church Food Security Network,” Faithlands Conference, November 2019

“Comrades and Cousins: Connecting Farmers and Christian Communities,” Black Urban Growers Conference, October 2019

“Land, Food, and Faith,” The 2019 Ingram/Johns Lectures at Memphis Theological Seminary, October 2019

“Aligning Policies, Resources, and Opportunities: Strengthening Small Businesses, Entrepreneurs, and Communities,” Booker T. Washington Economic Development Summit, September 2019

“Beyond Food Charity: An Asset-Based Approach To Food Security,” National Conference for Outreach and Agriculture Development, September 2019

“A Case Study of Food Sovereignty in Baltimore,” National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine, August 2019

“Food Sovereignty and Black Religious Communities,” Black Theology and Leadership Institute (BTLI) at Princeton Theological Seminary, July 2019

“Food Sovereignty and Climate Change,” On Food and Faith: Ministry In The Time Of Climate Change at Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio, May 2019

“Faith Communities and Food Insecurity,” Center For The Study Of Religion And The City Conference, April 2019

“Black Religious Communities and Food Sovereignty,” The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Pastor’s Conference, February 2019

HONORS AND AWARDS

Vision Award, Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation, November 2019

Annual award presented by the Govans Ecumenical Development Corporation (GEDCO) to a member of the Baltimore community whose leadership is deemed inspiring by city residents.

Baltimore Visionary Award, Baltimore Magazine, February 2018

Selected as one of 30 Change Makers that are shaping the future of the city of Baltimore.

Top 50 List, Grist.Org, 2016

Selected by Grist.org as one of 50 innovators, organizers, and visionaries who will lead us toward a more sustainable future, in the coming year (and beyond).

Beatitudes Fellowship, Beatitudes Society, 2013

The Beatitudes Fellowship identified a select group of young entrepreneurial faith leaders with the resources and relationships that empower them to create new models for church and social justice, and grow vital communities of faith in a pluralistic world. Rev. Heber Brown, III was selected as one of eight emerging faith leaders from across the United States and awarded \$10,000.

Change Makers of Baltimore City, Urbanite Magazine, 2011

Recognized by the publication as a transformative leader in the city of Baltimore

GRANTS

W.K Kellogg Foundation, May 2022

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 by breakfast cereal innovator and entrepreneur W.K. Kellogg who defined its purpose as, “...administering funds for the promotion of the welfare, comfort, health, education, feeding, clothing, sheltering and safeguarding of children and youth, directly or indirectly...” The Foundation awarded The

Black Church Food Security Network a grant in the amount of \$200,000 to support its efforts in expanding to communities across the country.

Kataly Foundation, February 2021

Kataly EJ Resource Collective comprises 9 women of color leaders within the Environmental, Climate and Food Justice movement. The leaders are collectively identifying organizations and bodies of work that will help significantly advance the environmental justice movement. The Foundation awarded a five-year \$500,000 grant to the Black Church Food Security Network to further our work related to racial and food justice.

Claneil Foundation, May 2019

The Emerging Leaders Award was created to support the critical role that executive directors play in launching and growing early-stage organizations. The Foundation awarded a four-year unrestricted general operating grant totaling \$240,000 to the Black Church Food Security Network to further our work along with \$10,000 of professional development funds.

Town Creek Foundation, 2017-2018

The Town Creek Foundation's mission is to provide resources to help catalyze, support, and accelerate progressive changes in environmental policy and practice within the State of Maryland. They provided a \$125,000 grant award to the Black Church Food Security Network to establish gardens at African American churches and create a niche market for farmers to sell their goods at Maryland congregations.

New Visions Foundation, 2018

New Visions Foundation seeks to help visionary organizations promote wider recognition and acceptance of cultural alternatives that address the challenges of their time. They provided a \$25,000 grant award to the Black Church Food Security Network to extend our efforts to establish a more just food system anchored by historic African American congregations.

COMMUNITY

Black Church Food Security Network, 2015

Founded network of African American churches and seminaries in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee, working in collaboration to advance food justice initiatives in their communities.

Orita's Cross Freedom School, 2010

Founded youth development program to support culturally-centered learning opportunities for African American youth in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

PUBLICATIONS

“Stop O’Malley’s Jail: A coming of age account of the grassroots campaign against a multi-million dollar youth jail in Baltimore,” published in *State of Black Baltimore Still Separate, Still Unequal*. Greater Baltimore Urban League. 2015

“Black Church Food Security Network,” published in *Innovations in the Food System: Exploring The Future Of Food*. The National Academies Press. 2020

Brown, III, Heber. “A Place All Our Own: Uncovering Traditions Of Sovereignty In The Black Church.” *Black Food*, edited by Bryant Terry, 4 Color Books, 2021, 101-103.

“Food Insecurity, Black Churches, and Black Household Vulnerabilities during COVID-19,” published in *Racialized Health, COVID-19, and Religious Responses: Black Atlantic Contexts And Perspectives*. Routledge. 2022