

2022

## LibGuide: Introduction to Womanist Theology

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### Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Elli Cucksey (2022) "LibGuide: Introduction to Womanist Theology," *Intersections*: Vol. 2022: No. 56, Article 12.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2022/iss56/12>

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# LibGuide: Introduction to Womanist Theology

In the spring of 2021, Trinity Lutheran Seminary offered a class called Introduction to Womanist Theology, as the first class of the Womanist Theology Initiative of the Seminaries of the ELCA. The class was taught by Dr. Beverly Wallace, Associate Professor of Congregational and Community Care at Luther Seminary.

The downside of working on a theology degree at the institution where I work full-time is that there is only time for one course at a time. The upside is that with one class at a time, I can focus deeply on that class and look for ways to incorporate the course work directly into my vocational work as Trinity's only librarian. Dr. Wallace's class looked like a perfect opportunity for me to explore a perspective to which I have had limited exposure. As with each of the classes I have taken at Trinity, this class would help me broaden my understanding of resources that can be of the most help to seminary students. The experience would prove to be so much more valuable than I had expected.

As it turned out, most of the class had been introduced to Womanist Theology as a field of study. While many of us had read at least a bit on the subject, Dr. Wallace guided us through a full semester of guests who spoke both broadly and deeply about theology, pastoral care, and other topics. Each author, preacher, or professor shared something different of the strengths of black women in the conversations about feminism, liberation, theology. By bringing their lived experiences to the table and allowing

the rest of us to examine these ongoing conversations through their unique lenses broadened my perspective.

In due course, we reached the final assignment of the class. Dr. Wallace asked us each to create a "space of freedom." When pressed for more details about what was expected, she gently demurred and asked us to think about what that meant to us. She reminded us that a womanist is creative. Now, one thing I know for sure is that I cannot be a womanist. Without the lived experience of being a black woman, which I will never have, I can only amplify womanist voices. As I imagined how I might create this "space of freedom" I envisioned a tool by which I might share these voices with audiences that might not have had opportunities to dive deeply into this kind of study. As it turns out, that is exactly what librarians do.

For my final project I created a LibGuide for Introduction to Womanist Theology. If you aren't familiar with LibGuides then shame on your librarian, but it is a tool for building research guides on the web that allow librarians to assemble many resources into an easily navigable format. These guides can be created for individual classes, subjects, or really anything. I built this LibGuide by



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gathering as many of the resources referenced by Dr. Wallace and the guest speakers she brought to class, and then adding a space to include the class projects of other students. As of this writing, there are a few student projects waiting to be uploaded, but for various reasons

they are not yet available. I hope to continue adding to the guide as future classes from Seminaries of the ELCA's Womanist Theology Initiative complete.

The LibGuide can be found here: <https://libguides.capital.edu/WomanistTheology>

• SAVE THE DATE •

# Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education Conference

**Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minnesota | July 10-12, 2023**

**Topic: *So That Faculty, Administrators, and Staff, Too, May Flourish***

The foundational document of the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities has it that we are “called and empowered to serve the neighbor so that all may flourish.” Echoing this central purpose, a new book by 15 educators at NECU institutions is entitled, *So That All May Flourish* (Fortress Press 2023). And yet, we all know—and many experience first-hand—the unprecedented degree of fatigue and burnout among educators these days, which is culminating in a “great resignation.” How do we educators care for ourselves and “neighbor” one another, even as we care for students experiencing their own stresses and anxieties? What Lutheran theological roots and institutional practices empower educators not simply to survive our overlapping crises, but to become fully alive—to flourish—in mind, body and spirit? The 2023 Vocation of Lutheran Higher Education Conference will bring together faculty, staff, and administrators from the NECU community to envision, plan for, and partake in a community where all may flourish.