Welcome,

On behalf of all of the sponsoring units at Michigan State University, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 3rd Annual Conference on Black Religion and Spirituality (BRS) in the 21st Century. The theme of this year’s conference, "Challenges and Opportunities, Past, Present, and Future" is particularly fitting at this moment of unprecedented challenges and historic change in our nation's politics. The conference organizers have assembled a remarkable group of speakers to stimulate thought and challenge our preconceptions. I want to thank the organizing committee and especially, Professor Emeritus Gloria Stephens Smith, who worked tirelessly to bring together this important conference.

The Department of History is honored to provide an academic home for the Black Religion and Spirituality program at MSU. We hope that you enjoy the conference and become engaged in other activities sponsored by the program over the course of the year.

Mark Kornbluh
Professor and Chairperson
Department of History
3rd Annual Conference Schedule

Conference Goals and Objectives
This conference will focus on the diversity of faiths among African Americans and how they are addressing challenges and opportunities in the 21st century including emphasis on the following:

- Examine the diversity of faiths in the African American community
- Examine the variety of means by which these diverse faiths are addressing challenges and opportunities in the 21st century
- Provide for a network of academics, practitioners, and community members
- Explore the impact of faith communities on Black people
- Develop a research repository of collaborative partnerships with academic scholars and diverse faith communities

Wednesday • November 19, 2008

1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Kellogg Lobby

Registration
Darcia Grant & Bayyinah Jeffries, BRS Committee

Opening Remarks
Dr. Michael C. Murphy, BRS Committee

Multiple Perspectives on Black Religion & Spirituality
Dr. Richard W. Thomas, Presiding

Dr. Pero Dagbovie, Michigan State University
*Religion and Spirituality: Windows into African American History and Black Studies.*

Dr. Sherman Jackson, University of Michigan
*Islam and the Interfaith Community*

Dr. Ronald Landfair, Lansing Black Catholic Ministry
*Catholic Perspectives Addressing Diversity Issues*

Dr. Christel Temple, University of Maryland Baltimore County
"Transitioning Into Africana Spirituality: Dr. John Henrik Clarke’s Self-Eulogy"

Dr. Zachery Williams, University of Akron
*Risks of Faith: James Cone, Jeremiah Wright Jr., and the Historical Challenge of Black Liberation Theology, 1968-2008*

5:15 PM - 7:00 PM
Dinner on Your Own

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Auditorium

The Changing Environment of Religion & Spirituality
Dr. Lee June, Presiding

Aesthetic Presentation
Earl Nelson Singers Company
Verna Holly, Director

Dr. Bernard Richardson
Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Howard University
*The Changing Environment of Religion & Spirituality*
Thursday • November 20, 2008

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Kellogg Lobby
Registration
Darcia Grant & Bayyinah Jeffries, BRS Committee

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Room 103
**Black Family and Spirituality**
Dr. Lloyd Bingman, Presiding
Bingman Group, Inc.

Dr. Harriette McAdoo, Michigan State University
*Demographic Picture of Black Family Religion and Spirituality*

Dr. Pamela Martin, North Carolina Central University
*My Soul Looks Back in Wonder: African American Demography*
*Protestant Faith Community and Mental Health*

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Room 103
**Voices of the Youth**
Mr. Kefentse Chike, Presiding

Dr. Denise Troutman, Michigan State University & BRS Women's Network

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Centennial Room
**Faith Communities and Our Youth**
Dr. Geneva Smitherman, Presiding

Reverend Dr. Jeffery Robinson, Michigan State University
*Faith Communities and Effective Strategies for Working with Youth*

2:00 PM - 4:15 PM
Room 103
**Faith Community & How it Addresses Problems of Youth**
Mr. Lisbon C. Berry III, Presiding

**Presenters:**
Mr. Ronald Landfair, Lansing Black Catholic Ministry
Mr. Eric Thomas, Michigan State University
Ms. Shahidah Kalam Id-Din, Philadelphia Community Leader
Mr. Hassan Malouf, Ba'hai Youth Leader

**Respondents**
Dr. Lee June, Michigan State University
Dr. Lester D. Stone, Friendship Baptist Church
Dr. Denise Maybank, Michigan State University

4:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Break

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Room 104
**Book Signing**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Auditorium
**Music, Religion and Spirituality**
Dr. Michael C. Murphy, Presiding

Professor Rodney Whitaker, Michigan State University
*From the Sacred to the Secular: Spirituality and Jazz*
Friday • November 21, 2008

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Room 103

**African History and Spirituality; A Case Study From Nigeria, West Africa**
Ms. Bayyinah S. Jeffries, Presiding

**Dr. Nwando Achebe, Michigan State University**
*Murder in Ochima: Priestess Mgbafor-Ezira, Nwachukwu, and the Circumstances Leading Up to the Death of Major G.L.D. Recastle*

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Room A

**Psychological Challenges in Black Religion & Spirituality**
Ms. Latoya Brackett, Presiding

**Dr. Marilyn Skinner Britt, Creative Research & Design**
Ms. Carol A. Johnson, MSW, Emerging Voices Center for Healing
*Images of Leadership in Black Religion & Spirituality*

**Dr. Jan Collins Eaglin, Michigan State University**
Ms. Taliha Easterly, Michigan State University
*Mental Health Outcomes*

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Room B

Darcia Grant, Presiding

**Dr. Jualynne Dodson, Michigan State University**
*Africa Based Traditions: Changes and Presence in the United States*

**Dr. LaShawn Harris, Michigan State University**
*Dream Books, Crystal Balls, and “Lucky Numbers”: African American Female Spiritual Mediums in Harlem, 1920s - 1930s*

Closing Luncheon
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Centennial Room

**Future Perspectives on Black Religion & Spirituality**
Dr. Gloria Stephens Smith, Presiding

**Introductions**
Reverend Lester D. Stone, Pastor Friendship Baptist Church

**Soloist**
Denise Coelho

**Remarks**
Reverend Gregory Roberts, Urban Affairs Specialists
State of Michigan Office of Governor Jennifer Granholm

**Speaker**
Reverend Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.
Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio
*Future Directions*

*Thank you for attending!*