



Annual Meeting 2018 Keynote Speaker Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Stephen G. Ray, Jr. is the newly appointed president of Chicago Theological Seminary. Having written and lectured broadly in the areas of Systematic Theology, African American religion, human rights and the intersection of religion and politics, President Ray's current work focuses on reinvigorating the public square as a place for all, and reclaiming a vital expression of progressive religion in that project.

Prior to being called to lead Chicago Theological Seminary, Ray served as the Neal F. and Ila A. Fisher Professor of Systematic Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, related to the United Methodist Church and located on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

He is also the president of the Society for the Study of Black Religion; past co-chair of the Workgroup on Constructive Theology; and served on the executive committee of the Black Religious Scholars Group. Ray serves on the review boards of Conversations in Religion and Theology and Westminster/John Knox Press; and is member of the American Academy of Religion.

Ray has received numerous awards, including Yale Divinity School's Hooker Fellowship for Excellence in Theological Studies; Yale University's University Fellowship; Charter Oak State College's Distinguished Alumni Award; and was named to Morehouse College's Martin Luther King, Jr. International Collegium of Scholars in 2008.

Ray's past positions include associate professor of African-American studies and director of the Urban Theological Institute at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; associate professor of theology and philosophy at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; and lecturer at Yale Divinity School and Hartford Seminary. He received a doctor of philosophy in theology and African-American studies from Yale University and a master of divinity (summa cum laude) from Yale Divinity School.

Ray, an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, has written numerous articles on Christology, race, and the Black experience. He is the author of "Do No Harm: Social Sin and Christian Responsibility," a contributor to "Constructive Theology: A Contemporary Approach to Classical Themes," and co-author of "Black Church Studies: An Introduction."