

FRANK A. THOMAS, PHD, currently serves as the Director of the Compelling Preaching Initiative and the Nettie Sweeney and Hugh Th. Miller Professor of Homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis, Indiana. The Compelling Preaching Initiative is an outgrowth of the PhD Program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric founded by Thomas. According to Thomas, the mission of both these programs is “to teach and develop the beauty, the depth, the genius, the history, and the power of African-American preaching in order to ignite a preaching renaissance to revive American Christianity in the twenty-first century.” He continues to teach, mentor, and advise PhD students.

For many years, Thomas has also taught preaching to Doctoral and Master level students at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois; Memphis Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tennessee; and United Theological Seminary of Dayton, Ohio. He is the CEO of Hope For Life International, Inc., which formerly published *The African American Pulpit*. Thomas also served as a former member of the International Board of *Societas Homiletica*, an international society of teachers of preaching and as former President of the American Academy of Homiletics.

Thomas served with distinction as the senior pastor for two remarkable congregations: New Faith Baptist Church of Matteson, Illinois; and Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church of Memphis, Tennessee, for eighteen years and thirteen years, respectively.

Thomas has spent a lifetime practicing, studying, teaching, and writing about preaching. His first book, *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God: The Role of Celebration In Preaching* was first published in 1997 and then revised, updated, and released in August 2013. To complement this classic preaching book, Thomas published, in 2014, *Preaching as Celebration Digital Lecture Series and Workbook*. He is also a nationally and internationally sought-after keynote speaker, preacher, and lecturer.

Thomas' many publications include: *The God of the Dangerous Sermon*, *Surviving a Dangerous Sermon*, *How to Preach a Dangerous Sermon*, and *Introduction to the Practice of African American Preaching*, released by Abingdon Press. He also co-edited *Preaching With Sacred Fire: An Anthology of African American Sermons 1750 to the Present* with Martha Simmons, published by W. W. Norton & Company in 2010. This critically acclaimed book offers a rare view of the unheralded role of the African American preacher in American history. Thomas is also the author of several other books on subjects from matters of prayer to spiritual maturity.

Thomas holds a PhD in Communications (Rhetoric) from the University of Memphis; a Doctor of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary and United Theological Seminary; Doctor of Ministry degrees from Chicago Theological Seminary and United Theological Seminary; a Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary; and a Master of Arts in African-Caribbean Studies from Northeastern Illinois University.

Thomas and his wife Joyce Scott Thomas have two adult children, Anthony William and Rachel Dickerson (Milton) and one granddaughter, August Elise Dickerson.