

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Miami Gardens, FL – April 16, 2018

Registration Now Open for “The Incredible Shrinking Church 2.0: Where Are the Millennials?” Colloquium

Please direct all inquiries on this press release to:

The Reverend Dr. Anna Price

aprice@jctseminary.org

305-624-4991

Registration is now open for “The Incredible Shrinking Church 2.0: Where Are the Millennials?,” the annual Spring Colloquium of the Johnnie Colemon Theological Seminary (JCTS), taking place May 17-19, 2018 at the Universal Truth Center for Better Living, located at 21310 NW 37th Avenue Miami Gardens, FL 33056.

“We have an exciting program every year,” says the Reverend Dr. Anna Price, the Seminary’s Provost and the host of the colloquium. “This year we have both a compelling and timely topic with an exceptional panel of presenters and panelists.*”

The Rev. Dr. Sheila McKeithen, the President of the Universal Foundation for Better Living, Inc. (UFBL) and the JCTS, will open the Colloquium on Thursday, May 17, with a special welcome to all attendees. Following Dr. McKeithen’s welcome will be acknowledgements by Dr. Price along with an introduction and background of the year’s theme.

Following Dr. Price will be a video presentation by Mitchell Walthour Jr., a filmmaker-activist and a co-coordinator of this year’s event. “My presentation is a fusion of current research regarding my generation – Millennials – which I’m sure is going to ruffle some feathers,” the 29-year-old laughs. “I will use data to shine a light on who my generation is and what we’re experiencing socially and economically. I will also go a step further to link those social and economic failures to the church. I also don’t shy away from the racial element either.”

Mr. Walthour’s video will be followed by a new friend to the UFBL and the evening’s keynote, the Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, author of “8 Habits of Love” and a national voice on Oneness of all, Faith, and Justice. Recently named a Soul Teacher on Oprah’s “SuperSoul 100” list of awakened leaders by Ms. Winfrey herself, Rev. Bacon will present on the following topic, “*It’s The End Of the Church As We Know It and I Feel Fine.*”

Following Rev. Bacon’s address, we will hear again from Dr. McKeithen, as she introduces a clip from a focus group she moderated with a the youth in Kingston, Jamaica, as they discussed their views on the church. After the showing of the clip, Dr. McKeithen will end the evening with her key findings and concluding remarks.

Friday, May 18, the Seminary welcomes the Rev. Dr. Joshua Mitchell, the Minister of Youth and College Students at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, and author of the newly released book, "Black Millennials and the Church: Meet Me Where I Am." "Not only has he produced original research on this subject, but Dr. Mitchell has experience with college-aged members at his church, which is vital to discuss, as churches often lose their youth when they head off to college," says Dr. Price. Dr. Mitchell will present remotely.

Friday evening continues with Dr. Joan Muir, a licensed Clinical Psychologist and the Executive Director of the Brief Strategic Family Therapy® Institute at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL. Dr. Muir will offer the psychology of Millennials, giving us an academic glimpse into the lives and minds of the current generation.

The Seminary is also honored to have with us the "Ex-Pastor," Kevin Wesley, who will close the evening. Mr. Wesley, a Millennial himself, went viral on Facebook two years ago for his public denunciation of his Christian faith. Mr. Wesley will join us remotely and will share his perspective as an ex-clergyman who is now part of the growing spiritual-conscious movement to awaken individuals from the spell of religion.

Saturday's, May 19, program leads off with Michelle Hollinger, a filmmaker, author, and publisher of The Sisterhood; and Tawnicia Ferguson-Rowan, a Faculty Member at both the JCTS and Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens. Both presenters, fellow Truth Students, will explore this theme in the context of New Thought, offering unique and individual perspectives.

After Rowan's presentation, all live presenters will be joined by Millennials for a panel discussion to review key points taken from the forum and answer final questions from attendees. Afterward, participants will come together in break out groups and report to everyone their response to "Where do we go from here?"

The Colloquium is open to the public, and participants may attend live or online. Admission is \$30.00 while Admission and a Recording are \$50.00. The first night is free to the public and will be live-streamed for free on the UFBL's Facebook page. However, Friday and Saturday's sessions are accessible only after one registers online or at the door. Please visit www.jctseminary.org/2018colloquium to register.

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* NOTE: Speaker presentation titles and availability are subject to change.