



The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas

The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas was named Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology at Union in September 2017. She also serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral and Theologian in Residence at Trinity Church Wall Street. Prior to Union, Dean Douglas served as Professor of Religion at Goucher College where she held the Susan D. Morgan Professorship of Religion and is now Professor Emeritus. Before that, she was Associate Professor of Theology at Howard University School of Divinity and Assistant Professor of Religion at Edward Waters College. Ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1983, Dean Douglas holds a master's degree in theology and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union. Her academic work has focused on womanist theology, sexuality and the black church.

Selected Monographs

Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective – Orbis Books, 1999

“This book tackles the ‘taboo’ subject of sexuality that has long been avoided by the Black church and community. Douglas argues that this view of Black sexuality has interfered with constructive responses to the AIDS crisis and teenage pregnancies, fostered intolerance of sexual diversity, frustrated healthy male/female relationship, and rendered black and womanist theologians silent on sexual issues.”

Stand your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God – Orbis Books, 2015

“‘If Trayvon was of age and armed, could he have stood his ground on that sidewalk?’ – President Barack Obama

On the Sunday morning after the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer, black preachers across America addressed the questions his death raised for their communities: ‘Where is the justice of God? What are we to hope for?’

In this timely and compelling book, Kelly Brown Douglas examines the myths and narratives underlying a ‘stand-your-ground’ culture, taking seriously the social as well as the theological questions raised by this and similar events, from Ferguson, Missouri to Staten Island, New York.

But the author also brings another significant interpretative lens to this text: that of a mother. She writes: ‘There has been no story in the news that has troubled me more than that of Trayvon Martin’s slaying. President Obama said that if he had a son his son would look like Trayvon. I do have a son and he does look like Trayvon.’

In the face of tragedy and indifference, Kelly Brown Douglas Arms the truth of a black mother’s faith in these times of ‘stand your ground.’”