Sunday: Oct. 19
Check in
5:00 to 6:00 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Reconnecting/Sharing
8:00 PM Evening Worship – Kevin Johnson, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Detroit

Monday: Oct. 20
7:30 AM Morning Prayer– Irvin Moxley, Brookwood Church, Columbus
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Three Deans Conversation on the Present State of Theological Education
10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM Reading Between the Lines: Reflections on the Morning
12:00 PM Lunch
1:15PM World Café Conversation –Warren Dennis
3:30 PM Break
3:30 PM The Bible, Preaching and Violence
4:30 PM Break
4:45 PM The Bible, Teaching and Violence, cont...
5:30 PM Dinner
6:30 PM COE/Rachael Hunter
8:30 PM Evening Worship—Debra Mumford

Tuesday: Oct. 21
7:30 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM PAM Café Conversation: Flipping the classroom: beginning with praxis?
10:30 AM Break
11:00 AM Partnership Strategies-Warren Dennis
12:30 PM Lunch
1:30 PM Café Conversation “What is question(s) emerging from morning session
3:00 PM Break
6:00 Dinner Out

Wednesday: Oct. 22
7:30 AM Morning Prayer
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Morning Worship/ Word & Sacrament, Robert E. Jones, College Hill, Dayton
10:15 AM Break
10:30 AM Open Evaluation of Time Together:

Thoughts about next retreat
12:00 Lunch
1:00 PM Departure

This Year’s Conversation

This year’s conversation is important because it invites back those who have journeyed with us over the years. It’s important because it’s about a conversation on our future and the future of theological education among Black Presbyterians. We call it: Theological Education: A Conversation Between the Lines. We have invited to help frame this conversation Paul Roberts, dean of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary whose board of Trustees have decided to withdraw its constituent membership from the Interdenominational Theological Center, ITC, and Deborah Mullen, Acting President, and, Dean of the Faculty and Executive Vice President of Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, and returning conversational partner Debra Mumford, Assistant Dean, Louisville Theological Seminary. We wonder aloud the maturation of our missions.
The Rev. Dr. Debra Mumford
Debra J. Mumford is the Frank H. Caldwell Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Associate Dean of Student Academic Affairs at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Dr. Mumford earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Howard University; a Master of Divinity from the American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, California; a Master of Arts in Biblical Languages and a Ph. D. in Homiletics (with an allied field in New Testament) from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Dr. Mumford’s academic interests include African American prophetic preaching, preaching and culture, eschatology and preaching, congregational exegesis, and anxiety and preaching. Dr. Mumford’s recent publications include, the book, Exploring Prosperity Preaching: Biblical Health, Wealth, and Wisdom and articles “Jeremiah Wright and Black Prophetic Preaching” and “Prosperity Preaching; Will Jesus Make You Rich?” for The Thoughtful Christian. Dr. Mumford is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church and has served as an associate minister at several churches. She has professional memberships with the Academy of Homiletics, the American Academy of Religion, the black Scholars Group of AAR, and the Together in Ministry Covenant Group. She also serves as a mentor for the Louisville Youth Group (a community grassroots organization that provides resources and safe space for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning young people).

The Rev. Dr. Warren L. Dennis
Dr. Dennis is The Dirck Romeyn Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry at New Brunswick Theology Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey. During his tenure at New Brunswick Seminary, he has developed degree programs in urban ministry for the Master of Theological Studies and Master of Divinity. He has also developed the curriculum for a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Urban Ministry. Dennis was one of the framers of “Is This New Wine”, a position paper that advocated an Afro-centric approach in ministry and mission in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Dr. Dennis is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati; Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia; and United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.

For over three decades, the faith journey of Warren Dennis has included God’s particular calls of pastor, chaplain, educator, social worker, urban planner, and community activist. As a minister of Word and Sacrament, Warren offers generously these gifts as faithful response to the versatilsity of God is calling.

The Rev. Paul Roberts
Paul T. Roberts, Sr. is the President/Dean of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (JCSTS) in Atlanta, GA, a position he has held since the spring of 2010.

Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary is one of the ten theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the only one that is historically African-American. It is one of the six constituent seminaries of the Interdenominational Theological Center which in turn is a member institution of the historic Atlanta University Center. Paul is a native of Stamford, CT. However, he grew up in Bradenton, FL, which he considers his home.

Paul graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture and African-American Studies. Afterwards, Paul worked for eight years in advertising in New York City. While there, he began attending Elmwood Presbyterian Church in northern New Jersey and felt the call to ministry. At the urging of his mentor and pastor, he came to Atlanta and earned his Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in New Testament Studies at Johnson C. Smith Seminary. Paul also is an Academic Fellow of the Ecumenical Institute of Bossey in Switzerland.