

Biography of Dr. Brad R. Braxton

Dr. Brad R. Braxton is the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas. This is a historic faculty appointment since he is the first African American to come to Southern Methodist University in an endowed chair. In addition to his professorial duties, Dr. Braxton is also the founding Senior Pastor of The Open Church, a cross-cultural, radically inclusive congregation in Baltimore, Maryland. His regular commuting between Dallas and Baltimore is a reflection of his passionate commitment to being both a scholar and a pastor.

Dr. Braxton is an ordained Baptist minister and a respected voice among today's progressive religious leaders. His speaking engagements have included appearances at institutions such as Yale University, Princeton University, Duke University, Emory University, and Morehouse College. In March 2007, Dr. Braxton preached at Westminster Abbey in London, England, joining a select group of American preachers to stand in that historic pulpit. He also has preached in Canada, Ghana, and South Africa.

Dr. Braxton holds a Ph.D. in New Testament studies from Emory University, a Master's degree in theology from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a B.A. degree in religious studies from the University of Virginia, where he was a Jefferson Scholar.

His publications include three books: *Preaching Paul* (2004); *No Longer Slaves: Galatians and African American Experience* (2002); and *The Tyranny of Resolution: I Corinthians 7:17-24* (2000), as well as numerous essays and sermons. He was a member of a team of scholars who created *The African American Lectionary*, the first, online, ecumenical African American preaching and worship lectionary.

Dr. Braxton's previous positions include professorships at McCormick Theological Seminary, Vanderbilt University, and Wake Forest University and pastorates at the Riverside Church in New York City and Douglas Memorial Community Church in Baltimore, Maryland.

His wife, Lazetta, is a Certified Financial PlannerTM and CEO of her own financial planning firm, Financial Fountains. They are the proud parents of a daughter, Karis, an energetic, inquisitive elementary school student who loves to dance and draw.