

## Discussion and Reading of *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*. Willie James Jennings

When/Where: 0930-1030 Wednesdays October 21, 28, November 4 and 18 via Zoom

Hosted by: Pr. Rich Gianzero. RSVP for interest: rgianzero@iliff.edu

### Description

We begin each 60-minute session with a short Gospel reading and prayer.

Reading and discussion of *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* by Willie Jennings. Jennings “shares the insights gained from his experience” as Dean of Duke Divinity, one of the only African Americans to hold that role. “He reflects on the distortions wrought by whiteness – and its related constructs of masculinity and individualism – but holds onto an abundant hope. Jennings discusses how theological formation can position itself at the front of a massive culture shift away from white, Western hegemony. The book is part poetry, memoir and a decolonial analysis which calls us from isolation to intimacy – calls us to belonging.

### Goals

Engage collegially among ministry leaders in examining what “whiteness” means from a theological and cultural hegemonic identity formation. Discussion of how whiteness distorts identity, theological imagination and practical ministry. To engage with three short excerpts from Reggie Williams, James Cone, and James Baldwin alongside *After Whiteness*. We examine “whiteness” as a constructed identity.

*Reading commitment is about 60 pages for each of three (3) sessions, one final open discussion.*

**One book to purchase:** *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging*. Willie James Jennings, **ISBN 978-0-8028-7844-1**. Also available on Kindle.

### Other Readings (provided as PDF)

- “The Racial Script,” *Christian Century*, Reggie Williams
- “On Being White & Other Lies,” *The Cross of Redemption: Uncollected Writings*. James Baldwin.
- Chapter 2 excerpt, *Said I Wasn’t Gonna Tell Nobody*, James Cone

### Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading	Other
Oct. 21	Secrets & Fragments	pp. 1-46	Williams article
Oct. 28	Designs & Buildings	pp. 47-104	Baldwin essay
Nov. 4	Motions & Eros	pp. 105-157	Cone excerpt
Nov. 18	Processing	none	none