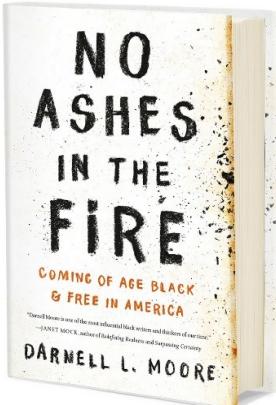


Thoughts and Resources

from the Commission for Racial Understanding

Summer 2019

EPISCOPAL DIVINITY
SCHOOL at **UNION**



Dear Friends,

I hope that you are enjoying the start of summer. As this season begins, I am pleased to announce that EDS at Union has selected *No Ashes in the Fire: Coming of Age Black & Free in America* by Darnell Moore for our Community Read for the upcoming fall semester. I hope that you will join us in reading this spiritual autobiography which tracks Moore's journey from Camden, NJ to Ferguson, MO – including his years at Princeton Theological Seminary. It is sure to be a powerful companion as you prepare for the start of the 2019-2020 academic year.

As I read *No Ashes in the Fire*, I was struck by the incredibly honest and moving way he describes what it was like to grow up Black and gay in Camden. His story traverses many intersections that must be theologically wrestled with – race, poverty, sexual identity, toxic masculinity – and the ambiguous role that faith often plays in these journeys. For anyone studying to become Christian minister, in particular, his honest witness calls us to grapple with the long shadow of patriarchal and heterosexist biblical interpretation and theology. His story is made all the more powerful by the way he connects his own personal liberation, his coming out story, to his role as one of the early leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement.

I have no doubt that Moore's book will provoke many questions – and I'm excited to announce that you will have an opportunity to hear from him directly at the beginning of the academic year. Please hold the evening of Wednesday, September 18 at 6:00 p.m. EST when Moore will join us on campus for an address, Q&A session, and book signing. This event will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in-person. Registration information will be made available by mid-August.

Enjoy your summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Brown Douglas'.

The Very Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas
Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union