

LEADING CHANGE

IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

March 2020

McCormick

MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

CROSS-CULTURAL *Urban Reformed* ECUMENICAL

Dr. Melissa Merrick to keynote symposium on Trauma & Healing



Dr. Melissa Merrick

[Dr. Melissa Merrick](#), president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, will be the keynote speaker at a symposium on Trauma & Healing on McCormick's campus, Saturday, April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. She has nearly 20 years of clinical, research, and leadership experience related to the etiology, course, and prevention of child abuse and neglect. The former senior epidemiologist with the Surveillance Branch in the Division of Violence Prevention at CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Dr. Merrick will provide a baseline for understanding the physiological and developmental impact of trauma, while also discussing the role that community plays in repairing neurological structures impacted in traumatic experience.



Rev. Chris Harris

Following Dr. Merrick, [Rev. Chris Harris](#), pastor, Brightside Church of God in Christ, will introduce a congregational anti-violence model that is trauma informed, evidence-based, and grounded in faith. This model consists of five core competencies: counseling, parenting, mentorship, work-force development, and advocacy where families and victims of violence and trauma can seek help with post-traumatic stress disorder.



Rev. Shawna Bowman

After these presentations, [Rev. Shawna Bowman](#), associate director of Experiential Education and Field Services coordinator, will lead participants in an envisioning of McCormick's healing support in the overall collective work of building a safer Chicago. Rev. Bowman's role as a graphic facilitator will allow participants to capture the narrative of trauma as it emerges in community, while also eliciting thoughts about our capacity to contribute a healing presence in Chicago.

This all-day symposium is funded by Science for Seminaries and supports a collaboration among McCormick Theological Seminary, the Presbytery of Chicago and the Illinois Trauma Informed Network to bring the latest research surrounding trauma prevention and treatment to public forums.

A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. This presentation is free and open to the public.