

## Pastoral Care and Theology

### **Books**

Bloomquist, Karen L., ed. *Grace, Care and Justice: A Handbook for HIV and AIDS work*. LWF, 2007

Cooper-White, Pamela. *Many Voices: Psychotherapy in Relational and Theological Perspective*. (Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2006).

This is a full scale disciplinary framework for pastoral psychotherapists/pastoral counselors at intermediate and advanced levels of clinical training and also for experienced pastoral counselors and psychotherapists in professional practice. It harvests the great potential of postmodern sensibilities to help, accompany, and support individuals, couples, and families in recognizing and healing especially painful psychic wounds, and/or longstanding patterns of self-defeating relationships to self and others.

Cooper-White, Pamela. *Shared Wisdom: Use of the Self in Pastoral Care and Counseling*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003).

In this groundbreaking book Pamela Cooper-White offers a new relational paradigm for pastoral assessment and theological reflection. She uses the caregiver's own responses and feelings as a primary instrument for deepening discernment and better care. She innovatively combines postmodern, psychoanalytic, and theological perspectives with illuminating case studies to illustrate this new use of the self in pastoral care, counseling, and psychotherapy.

Cooper-White, Pamela. *The Cry of Tamar: Violence against Women and the Church's Response*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995).

In this comprehensive, practical, and gripping assessment of various forms of violence against women, Pamela Cooper-White challenges the Christian churches to examine their own responses to the cry of Tamar in our time. She describes specific forms of such violence and outlines appropriate pastoral responses.

Holt-Woehl, Hollie M. *Congregations as Trinitarian Communities: Accepting, Welcoming, and Supporting People with Chronic Mental Illness*. (Saarbrücken, Germany: VDM Verlag Dr. Mueller, 2009).

Holt-Woehl seeks to discover common characteristics of congregations that are accepting, welcoming, and supporting of people with mental illness. The work includes a literature

review on congregations and mental illness as well as a study of six congregations. Author discovered a common view, in each congregation, that every person is a child of God and gifted by God whether or not they have mental illness.

Ramshaw, Elaine. *Ritual and Pastoral Care*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1987).

Drawing on a range of practical concerns and issues in worship life and pastoral care, Elaine Ramshaw shows how ritual can communicate care, and be shaped by care for the individual, society, and the world.

Wallace, B. R. and Rosenblatt, P. *African-American Grief*, (Brunner Routledge Press: New York, 2005).

This book explains how racism, economic disadvantage, and the operation of distinctive African American beliefs, practices, and institutions impact the grief process. The narratives of this qualitative research project of African American individuals who have experienced the loss of a loved one suggest that traditional understandings of the bereavement are insufficient to explain African Americans' unique experience of loss.

### ***Chapters in Books***

Wallace, B. R. "A womanist legacy of grief and trauma: reframing the notion of the strong black woman icon." In *Women Out of Order: Risking Change and Creating Order in a Multicultural World*. Edited by Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner and Teresa Snorton. (Fortress Press: Minneapolis, 2009).

This chapter, using the narrative of the author's mother's experience with historical and systemic trauma suggests that experience of grief and loss manifests itself in embracing the icon of the Strong Black Woman. The chapter highlights matters to be considered in understanding the complexity of grief, trauma, and loss as it relates to African American women. Implications for use by Pastoral Care providers and educators are given.

### ***Journal Articles***

Holt-Woehl, Hollie M. "Children of God and Mental Illness." *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* 7, no. 7 (2007). <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Journal-of-Lutheran-Ethics/Issues/July-2007/Children-of-God-and-Mental-Illness.aspx> [accessed July 1, 2007].

The author describes the theological reflections of participants in response to the question how they thought their congregation came to be accepting, welcoming, and supporting of diversity or those with chronic mental illness. Themes include the priesthood of all

believers/body of Christ, Holy Communion as a "Welcome Table" for all people, grace/gospel preaching, the theology of the cross, and simultaneously saint and sinner.

Wallace, B. R. and Rosenblatt, P. "Narratives of grieving African Americans about racism in the lives of deceased family members." *Death Studies* 29, 3 (2005): 217-235.

This article explores how racism is incorporated into narratives about a deceased family member. This qualitative research study reports on interviews of 26 African American about the life experience of deceased family members. Almost all the individuals interviewed talked about the ways the decease taught them to deal with racism. Findings suggest that a view of African American grief that is insensitive to racism in the African American experience may lead to unhelpful grief support or counseling.

Wallace, B. R., Turner, W.L., and Anderson, J., Byrd, C. The last mile of the way: End of life decision making in the African-American family. *The Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* 30 (2004): 427-438.

This article reports on qualitative research project, in-depth ethnographic interviews and focus groups of African American caregivers during a stressful time in their family development – caregiving at the end of the life – and the grieving through the aftermath. Results suggest that formal care is complicated by the distrust that many African Americans hold toward the health care system. The findings also highlights the importance of hearing from African American families to gain an understanding of what services, including family therapy, and other psychotherapy that families will need during this process.

Wallace, B. R. and Turner, W. L. &. African-American women and substance use: epidemiology, prevention, and treatment. *Violence Against Women* 9, 5 (2002): 576-589.

This article highlights the prevalence, correlates, and adverse consequences of alcohol and other drugs (AOD) used by African American women. Efforts to prevent substance use and the nature and effectiveness of treatment are addressed. Several complex issues and limitations that relate to African American AOD prevention and the treatment are addressed including the misinformed assumption of the homogeneity of the African American population.