THE VERY REVEREND DR. KELLY BROWN DOUGLAS

The Very Reverend Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas was named Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary and Professor of Theology at Union in September 2017. She also serves as the Canon Theologian at the Washington National Cathedral.

Prior to Union, Dean Douglas served as Professor of Religion at Goucher College where she held the Susan D. Morgan Professorship of Religion and is now Professor Emeritus. Before that, she was Associate Professor of Theology at Howard University School of Divinity (1987-2001) and Assistant Professor of Religion at Edward Waters College (1986-1987).

Dean Douglas did her undergraduate work at Denison University, holds a master’s degree in theology and a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union (with the guidance of James Cone). She was ordained as an Episcopal priest in 1983. Her academic work has focused on womanist theology, sexuality and the black church. She is widely published in national and international journals and other publications and the author of many books, including *Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective* (1999) was the first to address the issue of homophobia within the black church community. Her latest book, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God* (2015), examines the challenges of a “Stand Your Ground” culture for the black church. Douglas’ other books include *The Black Christ* (1994), *What’s Faith Got to Do with It?: Black Bodies/Christian Souls* (2005) and *Black Bodies and the Black Church: A Blues Slant* (2012), which seeks to move the black church beyond its oppressive views toward LGBTQ bodies and sexuality in general. In addition, Dean Douglas is the co-editor of *Sexuality and the Sacred: Sources for Theological Reflection* (2010).

Dean Douglas is a native of Dayton, Ohio, and was ordained at St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church in Dayton in 1985. She was the first black woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest in the Southern Ohio Diocese, and one of only five nationwide at the time. She also was the first to receive the Anna Julia Cooper Award by the Union of Black Episcopalian (July 2012) for “her literary boldness and leadership in the development of a womanist theology and discussing the complexities of Christian faith in African-American contexts.”