Theological Reflection on Faith, Intersectionality, and Democracy
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Intersectionality privileges voices who suffer from overlapping oppressions in order to give them a place at the table. An intersectional lens for faith and life in the twenty-first century is especially important in light of the Corona Virus pandemic. As the pandemic sweeps across the United States without signs of slowing down, we have not yet heard from the voices most affected by the virus, those whom Jesus called “blessed” - the ochlos.

Therefore, this course explores profound faith in stories from the margins in the vein of Fannie Lou Hamer, whose faith enabled her to “make a way out of no way.” The intersectional approach advocated here will also privilege transgendered persons of color, who are persons with a more complicated experience with Corona because of intertwined oppressions, yet whose voices are unheard.

Turning to the theme of Democracy, a Womanist perspective on faith connects with the transcendent power allowing humanity to persist in spite of oppression and the threat of hopelessness in the world today. Christian faith is increasingly challenged by the election of Donald J. Trump as President of the United States. A proportionate number of US citizens make Trump into a member of the Christian Godhead. It is sinful and blasphemous to the Triune God revealed decisively in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III has said, “God will not be ‘Trumped.’” We will, therefore, address the role of faith today in the US when democratic principles are increasingly being threatened by Trump’s anti-democratic nationalism.

Finally, this course embodies LSTC’s commitment to a “Public Church” curriculum and stresses that future ministers of the Gospel must be able to relate their faith in Jesus Christ to social and political oppression in the world today. Can the One who was crucified as a criminal and who died abandoned by his followers be a source of hope and inspiration in the contemporary United States when Christianity is being co-opted by right-wing nationalism, and the voices of the ochlos are going unheard? We will probe this question in relation to intersectionality, in order to anchor our academic and political objectives in the Christian gospel.