



SHORT BIO

The Reverend Melanie Jones Quarles, Ph.D. is a womanist ethicist, millennial preacher, and intellectual activist. Melanie is an Assistant Professor of Ethics, Theology, and Culture and the Inaugural Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary. Formerly, Melanie served as the first Crump Visiting Professor and Black Religious Scholar-in-Residence at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX, and Lecturer at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX, American Baptist College in Nashville, TN, Chicago Theological Seminary, and The Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL.

Melanie is a thinking woman of faith embodying radical love and revolutionary justice in the academy, Church, and global community. Melanie earned a B.A. in Economics and Political Science from Howard University, a Master of Divinity with a certificate in Black Church Studies from Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Ethics, Theology, and Culture with a concentration in Black Faith & Life at Chicago Theological Seminary. Melanie's research engages womanist theological ethics and sacred texts, millennials and faith, Black aesthetics, and digital technocultures. Melanie has received notable fellowships and scholarships for her distinguished research, including The Forum for Theological Exploration, The Louisville Institute, Wabash Center, Villanova University Center for Church Management, Lily Endowment, Inc., and The Henry Luce Foundation.

Committed to enlivening a world where Black women and girls are whole and free, Melanie serves professional societies and international boards as a global leader in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (former International Second Vice President 2008 – 2010), Black Religious Scholars Group, Society of Christian Ethics, and Daughters of the African Atlantic Fund. Melanie is the Co-Founder of The Millennial Womanism Project (TMWP) and Co-host of The Womanist Salon (TWS) podcast— an intergenerational, woke, womanist podcast that integrates the hair salon as site, source, and sanctuary for authentic Black sisterhood.

Melanie is the youngest ordained woman minister at South Suburban Missionary Baptist Church in Harvey, IL. Melanie is newly married to The Reverend DeQuon A. Quarles, M.Div. A third-generation ordained Baptist preacher and sought-after lecturer, Melanie is an emerging millennial voice with noted academic and popular publications and features on television, radio, and news outlets. Follow Melanie at www.revmelanie.com and @revmelaniej on social media.

