



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ITC's Wimberly Appointed to the Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Advisory Board

ATLANTA, GA (October 5, 2015) – The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is pleased to announce that Professor Emerita Anne S. Wimberly has been appointed to the Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing (JAFF) Advisory Board of the *Theology of Joy and the Good Life Project* based at the Yale Center for Faith & Culture. The three-year research project is made possible by a \$4.2 million grant from The John Templeton Foundation.

The JAFF Advisory Board will assemble some of the nation's foremost scholars of youth ministry. As a member of the board, Dr. Wimberly will conduct research and direct the project in collaboration with the project's principal investigator, Miroslav Volf, Professor of Theology at Yale Divinity School, and an extraordinary group of scholars and religious leaders from institutions around the globe.

The project will conduct research and facilitate interdisciplinary conferences and other gatherings to build a transformative movement driven by a Christian articulation of the joy that attends the flourishing human life. In addition to its overall concentration, the project will also focus on the *Joy and Adolescent Faith and Flourishing Subproject* which will examine

adolescence as a uniquely opportune and consequential phase of moral and spiritual development with profound implications for long-term prospects of a life of joyful flourishing.

JAFF will conduct a three-year series of 34 lectures on the foundations of adolescent joy and flourishing, publish scholarly articles, an anthology, a major theological monograph, and curricular materials on the foundations of joy and flourishing life and on the spiritual resources supporting resilience in the face of common sources of adolescent suffering.

“We are very excited to have Dr. Wimberly’s leadership in this project,” said Wolf. “We are working to identify the practices and attitudes that hinder and develop sustained joy in adolescence, so that we can offer resources that will enable adolescents to live lives of joyful flourishing. Having Dr. Wimberly’s guidance and wealth of experience is greatly needed for such meaningful work.”

“Dr. Wimberly’s appointment to the JAFF Advisory Board should come as no surprise to anyone familiar with her work with the Youth Hope-Builders Academy sponsored through the ITC,” said ITC President Edward L. Wheeler. “She is a leading authority in the area of youth, in particular African-American youth, and their association with the Christian faith. Her appointment speaks to the integrity of the *Theology of Joy and the Good Life Project* and to what we at the ITC have always known: the ITC faculty is second to none! The ITC Community rejoices at the news of her appointment.”

More information about the Theology of Joy and the Good Life project is available at joy.yale.edu, which will be periodically updated with news and resources generated by the project.

ABOUT THE ITC

The Interdenominational Theological Center is the world's premier resource for Black church scholarship and faith-based solutions to the spiritual and socio-economic challenges confronting the African American community. The institution advocates a more aggressive role for churches in the renewal of American society, with special emphasis on the development of "public theologians: men and women of faith with special training for and commitment to nurturing the spiritual, moral, and economic empowerment of distressed communities throughout the nation."

ABOUT THE JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

The John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions, ranging from explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to questions on the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness, and creativity. Visit www.templeton.org for more information.

ABOUT THE YALE CENTER FOR FAITH AND CULTURE

The Yale Center for Faith and Culture was established in 2003 to critically examine and promote practices of faith which advance authentic human flourishing and the global common good. The Center's core programs are God & Human Flourishing, Life Worth Living, and Adolescent Faith & Flourishing. Visit faith.yale.edu for more information.