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The Ella & Henry Mitchell Endowment

for Theological Education



THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY CITY
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Ella P. Mitchell

Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell, the daughter of a South Carolina pastor, became the second African-American woman to graduate from Union Theological Seminary in 1943 with an MA degree in Christian Education. The year following her graduation, she married fellow Union graduate Henry H. Mitchell '44. They were married for 64 years, until her death in 2008. Dr. Mitchell distinguished herself as an instructor and scholar in religious education at multiple American Baptist institutions in the state of California. From 1959 to 1973, she served on the Board of Educational Ministries of American Baptists, four years as its president. In 1974, Mitchell received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology in Claremont, and was ordained at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland in 1978.

In addition to her work as an educator, Ella Mitchell edited *Women: To Preach or Not To Preach* (1991) and five volumes of *Those Preaching Women* (1985-2008). She and Henry Mitchell co-authored an autobiography of their marriage, *Together for Good* (1999), and *Fire in the Well: Sermons* by Ella P. and Henry H. Mitchell (2003). She was the recipient of Union Theological Seminary's Unitas Award, Claremont School of Theology's distinguished alumni/ae award; and was a Union Trailblazers honoree.

Henry H. Mitchell

Rev. Dr. Mitchell is a native of Columbus, Ohio. He holds degrees from *Union Theological Seminary, New York (B.D./M.Div)*; where he met his wife as well as multiple institutions in California where he also served from 1945-1959 as a denominational staff person. Time in academia included: Being named the first *Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Black Church Studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School*. Serving as founding director of the *Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies*, in Los Angeles. Acting as *Academic Dean and Professor of History and Homiletics at Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University*. Team teaching along with his wife, as *Visiting Professors of Homiletics at the Interdenominational Theological Center*. Mentoring students, again with Ella, in the *Doctor of Ministry Program at the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio*.

Dr. Mitchell is author of three texts, *Black Preaching, The Recovery of Preaching* and *Celebration and Experience in Preaching*. He co-authored two other books, *Soul Theology* and *Preaching for Black Self-Esteem* with Dr. Emil M. Thomas. The Mitchell's inspiring love story, *Together for Good*, was originally published in 1999 and re-released by Judson Press in 2005.

The Ella & Henry Mitchell Endowment

The spiritual leadership and teachings of Ella Pearson Mitchell and Henry Haywood Mitchell continue to inspire people of faith, lay and ordained, all across the country and indeed the world.

The Ella and Henry Mitchell Endowment (EHM) seeks to preserve, expand, and institutionalize the legacy for spiritual leaders by funding:

The Jackson/Mitchell Chair for Women and Religion at Union Theological Seminary.

The endowment of the Chair honors the legacy of Dr. Ella and commits to the future of Theological Excellence for women of color.

Scholarship awards through ***American Baptist Foundation*** partners, that support and inspire current and future theological students throughout their seminary training.

