

## Commission Nominations

Reference #	16256845
Status	Complete
Nominee First Name	Lester
Last Name	McCorn
Nominee Street Address	1029 Crawford Road
City	Rock Hill
State/Province/Region	SC
Zip/Postal Code	29730
Phone Number	+18033277402
Country	United States
Nominee Email Address	<a href="mailto:lmccorn@clintoncollege.edu">lmccorn@clintoncollege.edu</a>
Highest Earned Degree	D.Min.
Institution at which the nominee serves (If Not Applicable, Enter N/A)	Clinton College
Title / Institutional Role	President
Professional Service: Position, Organization, Years	President of Clinton College, 2017 - present Adjunct Professor, United Theological Seminary, 2012-2016
Type of nomination	Institutional Representative
Verification of qualifications to serve	Yes
Verification of interest to serve	Yes
Your First Name	Lester
Last Name	McCorn
Email Address	<a href="mailto:lmccorn@clintoncollege.edu">lmccorn@clintoncollege.edu</a>
Institution where you serve	Clinton College

<b>Last Update</b>	2024-02-20 13:34:28
<b>Start Time</b>	2024-02-20 13:32:28
<b>Finish Time</b>	2024-02-20 13:34:28
<b>IP</b>	208.104.90.162
<b>Browser</b>	Chrome
<b>Device</b>	Desktop
<b>Referrer</b>	<a href="https://www-tracs-org.filesusr.com/">https://www-tracs-org.filesusr.com/</a>



## Declaration of Qualification to Serve

*This Declaration concerns individuals who are nominees to serve as members of the TRACS Accreditation Commission and is to be completed as a part of the nomination process.*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

### General Qualifications

According to the TRACS Bylaws - Article 6, Section 2:

*A Commissioner shall be a person who is a born-again believer, separated from worldliness, has a reputation and Christian character which is above reproach, is in accord with the philosophy and purpose of TRACS, is qualified by appropriate experience and training, and annually affirms agreement with TRACS' doctrinal statement. Any Commissioner representing an institution which ceases to be a member is no longer qualified to serve as a Commissioner as of the date on which the institution ceases to be a member.*

### Specific Qualifications

#### Institutional Representative

According to the TRACS Bylaws - Article 7, Section 3, Subsection C:

*(Specified) members of the Commission shall be employed full-time by member institutions as executives, administrators, or faculty.*

*TRACS defines full-time employee as, An employee who has a full-time contract or other legal arrangement which indicates to the employee that the term of employment will only be terminated for cause or financial exigency; whose experience and education or training are related to the scope of employment; whose salary is fixed and not contingent; whose job responsibilities are specifically spelled out in a board approved job description; whose primary professional employment is with the institution; who devotes substantially all working time during the contracted period to the specified job responsibilities; and whose outside professional activities do not detract from the specified job responsibilities. The contract or other legal arrangement must include language that specifies the employee has read the institution's purpose, objectives, and philosophy and agrees with and supports them.*

#### Faculty Representative

According to the TRACS Bylaws - Article 7, Section 3, Subsection B:

*Two members of the Commission shall be full-time faculty members of member institutions.*

*TRACS defines full-time faculty as: A faculty member who has a full-time contract with the institution; whose earned degrees from accredited institutions are directly related to courses to*

*be taught; whose salary is fixed and not contingent; whose job responsibilities are specifically spelled out in a board approved job description; whose primary professional employment is with the institution; who devotes substantially all working time during the contracted period to the specified job responsibilities; and whose outside professional activities do not detract from the specified job responsibilities.*

Colleges and universities generally include librarians as members of the faculty and some institutions consider Registrars as faculty. If an institution classifies a librarian as a full-time faculty member, TRACS can accept that as the equivalent of the definition above. Because Registrars are often viewed as administrators, they would more likely be considered Institutional Representatives on the Commission. For a Registrar to be considered the equivalent of a full-time faculty member, the institution would be required to classify the Registrar as a full-time faculty member.

### **Public Representative**

According to the TRACS *Bylaws* - Article 7, Section 3, Subsection A:

*At least three, but not more than one-third of the Commissioners shall be public representatives. A representative of the public must not be (1) An employee, member of the governing board, owner, or shareholder of, or consultant to, an institution or program that either is accredited or preaccredited by the agency or has applied for accreditation or preaccreditation; (2) A member of any trade association or membership organization related to, affiliated with, or associated with the agency; or (3) A spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an individual identified in paragraph (1) or (2) of this definition.*

**Based on the definitions and expectations for serving as either an Institutional Representative, Faculty Representative, or Public Representative, select the appropriate designation for the nominee below.** (check only one)

### **Institutional Representative**

Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Earned Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Granting Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Does the nominee have any experience in Distance Education?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

Has the nominee participated on any Evaluation Team or Focus Team Visits for TRACS?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

**Faculty Representative**

Name of Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Position / Title \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Earned Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Granting Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Does the nominee have any experience in Distance Education?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

Has the nominee participated on any Evaluation Team or Focus Team Visits for TRACS?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

**Public Representative**

Current Status      Employed

Self-Employed

Retired

If employed, indicate the name of the company / organization of employment and current position / title:

Highest Earned Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Granting Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Does the nominee have any experience in Distance Education?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

Has the nominee participated on any Evaluation Team or Focus Team Visits for TRACS?

Yes

No

If yes, explain.

### **Additional Documentation Required**

Please include the following with your nominee submissions:

a current résumé or curriculum vitae,

a short biographical sketch, and

a recent color headshot photograph.

*By signing below, the nominee acknowledges that he/she satisfies the general qualifications for service as a Commissioner and meets the specific qualifications for service as specifically designated. The nominee further agrees to notify the President of TRACS and tender his/her resignation from the Commission if he/she no longer meets the general or specific qualifications for serving on the Commission.*

Signature of Nominee Lester A. McCorn

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Declaration of Doctrinal Statement Agreement

*This Declaration concerns individuals who are nominees to serve as members of the TRACS Accreditation Commission and is to be completed as a part of the nomination process.*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

According to the TRACS *Bylaws* – Article 6, Section 2: (emphasis added)

*A Commissioner shall be a person who is a born-again believer, separated from worldliness, has a reputation and Christian character which is above reproach, is in accord with the philosophy and purpose of TRACS, is qualified by appropriate experience and training, and annually affirms agreement with TRACS’ doctrinal statement. Any Commissioner representing an institution which ceases to be a member is no longer qualified to serve as a Commissioner as of the date on which the institution ceases to be a member.*

According to the TRACS *Bylaws* – Article 5, Sections 1-11:

*TRACS exists to accredit Christian educational institutions that have adopted specific doctrinal positions. In the institution’s Biblical Foundation Statement, the TRACS Biblical Foundations Statement is affirmed as a general model, but is not expected to be used verbatim, TRACS offers the following tenets:*

**Section 1: The Bible** - *The unique divine, plenary, verbal inspiration and absolute authority of all sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as originally given. The Bible is the only infallible, authoritative Word of God and is free from error of any sort, in all matters with which it deals, scientific, historical, moral, and theological.*

**Section 2: The Trinity** - *The triune Godhead – one eternal, transcendent, omnipotent, personal God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Section 3: The Father** - *God the Father, the first person of the Divine Trinity, is infinite Spirit – sovereign, eternal, unchangeable in all His attributes. He is worthy of honor, adoration, and obedience.*

**Section 4: The Son** - *The perfect, sinless humanity and the absolute, full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, indissolubly united in one divine-human person since His unique incarnation by miraculous conception and virgin birth.*

**Section 5: Holy Spirit** - *The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead who convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals all believers in Christ, and fills those who yield to Him. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all believers; however, the manifestation of any particular gift is not required for salvation.*

**Section 6: Historicity** - The full historicity and perspicuity of the Biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel.

**Section 7: Redemption** - The substitutionary and redemptive sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sin of the world, through His literal physical death, burial and resurrection, followed by His bodily ascension into heaven.

**Section 8: Salvation** - Personal salvation from the eternal penalty of sin provided solely by the grace of God on the basis of the atoning death and resurrection of Christ, to be received only through personal faith in His person and work.

**Section 9: Last Things** - The future, personal bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth to judge and purge sin, to establish His eternal kingdom and to consummate and fulfill all His purposes in the works of creation and redemption with eternal rewards and punishments.

**Section 10: Biblical Creation** - Special creation of the existing space-time universe and all its basic systems and kinds of organisms occurred in the six literal days of the creation week.

**Section 11: Satan** - The existence of a personal, malignant being called Satan who acts as tempter and accuser, for whom the place of eternal punishment was prepared, where all who die outside of Christ shall be confined in conscious torment for eternity.

By signing below, the nominee affirms agreement with the TRACS Doctrinal Statement as presented above:

Signature of Nominee Lester A. McCorn Date \_\_\_\_\_





## Nominee Conflict of Interest Form

*This Declaration concerns individuals who are nominees to serve as members of the TRACS Accreditation Commission and is to be completed as a part of the nomination process.*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

***Definition: A conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, having served for compensation during the past three years as a consultant for an institution under consideration, being a stockholder or board member of the institution, or any other association or activity, including the appearance of a conflict of interest, that an impartial person might reasonably conclude would compromise a person's capacity for objectively dealing with an issue concerning a particular institution.***

In addition to the general "Conflict of Interest" definition above, the following apply specifically to individuals serving as Accreditation Commission members:

- It is a conflict of interest for a member of the Accreditation Commission to have served as a member of an Evaluation Team, Focus Team or as an Interim Fifth-Year Peer Reviewer for an institution under consideration if the review was within five years of the meeting where the institution will be considered.
- A member of the Accreditation Commission or one of its committees with a conflict of interest related to any institution or action being considered must decline an assignment as a reader, declare the conflict, and recuse himself / herself from the discussion, deliberation, and decision making regarding that institution or action under consideration.
- If it is discovered after an Accreditation Commission action that a situation involving a conflict of interest has significantly affected a Commission action, the Chair of the Accreditation Commission may place the action on the Accreditation Commission agenda for reconsideration. A member of the Accreditation Commission may be removed from the Accreditation Commission by vote of that body if he / she knowingly violates these guidelines.
- Accreditation Commission members may not solicit or accept employment, including compensated consulting, from any institution which has been considered by the Accreditation Commission for any action for one year following the action.
- When an Accreditation Commission member is employed by, an appointee of, or a consultant to a member institution which is in any way involved in litigation with TRACS or the Accreditation Commission or both, it shall be a conflict of interest for that member to attend any meeting of the Accreditation Commission or the committees of the Accreditation Commission until the litigation is concluded, including all appeals.

*By signing below, the Nominee for the Accreditation Commission acknowledges understanding of what constitutes a "Conflict of Interest" and agrees to abide by the TRACS Conflict of Interest Policy in their service on the Accreditation Commission.*

Signature of Nominee *Lester A. McCorn*

Date \_\_\_\_\_





## Public Representative Financial Responsibility Acknowledgement Form

*This form concerns individuals who are nominees to serve as Public Representatives on the TRACS Accreditation Commission and is to be completed by the nominee as a part of the nomination process.*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

*By signing below, I affirm understanding that if selected to serve as a Public Representative on the TRACS Accreditations Commission, I will be responsible for all expenses incurred which relate directly to my attendance and service at two Accreditation Commission meetings per year for a period of three years. These expenses may include, but may not be limited to, travel, meals, and hotel accommodations. I further affirm understanding that TRACS will provide a reimbursement of up to \$2,500.00 per fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to cover these expenses.*

Signature of Nominee Lester A. McCorn Date \_\_\_\_\_

# LESTER A. McCORN, D. Min., Ph.D. (candidate)

W. 803.327.7402 | C. 410.608.3337 | lmcorn@gmail.com | Rock Hill, SC

## SUMMARY

- A transformational leader, established professional, and experienced scholar, with an aptitude for engaging growth-focused academic and community-centric initiatives, leveraging 10+ years leading private education and institutional development efforts in the field of higher education, and 31+ years as a Senior Pastor and community leader.
- Notably contributes to the development, implementation, and execution of short- and long-term strategies for financial, academic, and strategic growth, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in education and a desire to cultivate sustainable relationships with community and institutional leaders, stakeholders, and key decision-makers.
- Tirelessly advocates for improved diversity and inclusion, anti-racism education, social justice, and political action at the organizational and educational level.

## CORE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

<b>EXECUTIVE &amp; ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>FUNDRAISING &amp; GIVING</b>	<b>DIVERSITY, EQUITY &amp; INCLUSION</b>
<b>M.L. KING JR. SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>FINANCIAL PLANNING &amp; STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>ANTI-RACISM EDUCATION ADVOCACY</b>
<b>FISCAL MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROJECT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>SOCIAL JUSTICE &amp; POLITICAL ACTION</b>
<b>FAITH-BASED ENGAGEMENT</b>	<b>CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT</b>
<b>PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>LEADERSHIP/CHANGE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PLANNING</b>

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**Clinton College**  
*Rock Hill, SC*  
Jun 2017 - present

### **PRESIDENT & PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP**

- Led the full transition from a Junior College to four-year liberal arts college; Overhauled the Department of Academic Services; established five new academic Divisions of the College, six new degree programs, including cybersecurity and a board-certified Bachelor of Science in Nursing.
- Spearheaded the development and implementation of a 10-year, \$75M master facilities plan to drive institutional growth and improve performance in alignment with short- and long-term goals.
- Secured over \$10 million in federal grants, including Health and Human Services
- Led a campus-wide effort for the ten-year re-affirmation of accreditation with no findings, recommendations, or suggestions.
- Led the construction of a new facility to house the Academic Center of Excellence, with administrative and faculty offices, and a nursing teaching laboratory.
- Implemented strong fiscal management; Raised the most funds in the College's history, increasing endowment by 10%, attaining perfect 3.0 composite scores in consecutive years, with zero long-term debt.
- Established the College as a community-based center for health sciences, including a state funded Wellness and Community Health Institute, federally funded health literacy and outreach program, and state-certified nursing program.
- Led the innovative renovation of the library, creating the new Digital Library and Learning Commons, installed new state-of-the-art cybersecurity laboratory.
- Founder/President & CEO of the Clinton College Community Development Corporation (CDC)

**United Theological Seminary**  
*Dayton, OH*  
Jan 2012 - Dec 2016

### **ADJUNCT PROFESSOR/DOCTORAL MENTOR**

- Served as a mentor to doctoral students in the Gardner C. Taylor Fellows Cohort, facilitating conversations that encouraged leadership, action, and advocacy.
- Employed a diverse range of academic and instructional materials to engage graduate students and meet their varying needs emotionally, socially, and academically.
- Successfully graduated 12 doctoral candidates over the course of four years
- Mentored one student who became a college president.

# LESTER A. McCORN, D. Min., Ph.D. (candidate)

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## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

**Pennsylvania Avenue A.M.E. Zion Church**  
*Baltimore, MD*

Sept. 2008 – July 2017

### SENIOR PASTOR

- Demonstrated strong managerial and leadership expertise, overseeing the execution of daily church operations, and contributing to strategy sessions surrounding fundraising, community impact, and development efforts of congregation of 1,500.
- Oversaw multiple concurrent capital projects, ensuring alignment with the visionary plans and strategic direction of the church.
- Interviewed, onboarded, and trained newly hired staff members to promote operational efficacy and encourage them to maximize their personal and professional potential.
- Served as a diplomatic, confident subject matter expert in the areas of change management and branding, communicating best practices for engaging organizational operations and driving growth.
- Introduced actionable strategies for engaging the operational, administrative, financial, and visionary plans of the church in alignment with budgetary restrictions, organizational mission, and long-term growth objectives.
- Ministered to congregants, visitors, and prospective members in the community including administering pastoral care and counseling sessions for members of all ages.
- Instituted new paradigm of ministry that increased involvement and effectiveness of service to congregation and community.

**Faith A.M.E. Zion Church**  
*Atlanta, GA*

Oct 2005 - Sep 2008

### SENIOR PASTOR, PRESIDING ELDER

- Served as the Presiding Elder of the Conyers-Winder District of Atlanta, providing oversight of 11 suburban and rural churches.
- Led efforts to plan, develop, and source funding for a new church campus in inner-city Atlanta.
- Facilitated and optimized growth-focused community engagement, outreach, and development initiatives as a leader
- Dedicated significant time and effort to the study and exposition of God's word, teaching courses on topics including church leadership and administration for both the Shaw Temple Biblical and Leadership Institute and the Georgia Conference

**Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church**  
*Chicago, IL*

Aug 1998 - Jun 2005

### SENIOR PASTOR

- Led a congregation of 800 including a staff of 17, contributing to strategy sessions regarding growth and development, introducing actionable strategies for engaging the operational, administrative, financial, and visionary plans of the church in alignment with budgetary restrictions, the organizational mission, and long-term growth objectives.
- Facilitating a campaign to burn the mortgage on a \$2M church and expand property.
- Served as the founding President of the Martin Temple Community Foundation (CDC), receiving a \$500k member-initiated grant from Illinois State Senator Barack Obama.
- Aided in the establishment of the Spoonful of Hope Community Soup Kitchen which feeds 300+ people each week

**Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church**  
*New Haven, CT*

Jun 1993 - Jul 1998

### SENIOR PASTOR

- Ministered to a historic congregation of 750 members, outlining and planning services with a focus on parishioner engagement, doubling membership.
- Led community outreach initiatives, encouraging the congregation to pursue the church mission, engaging with parishioners, visitors, and prospective members in the community.
- Spearheaded a 175th anniversary celebration recognizing the founding of the church.
- Established the Varick Family Life Center and the Varick Development Corporation, which operated the Hilton House Transitional Living Home for Young Men and the Hannah Gray Home for Senior Women

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## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE (CONT'D)

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**SENIOR PASTOR**, St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church | *Boston, MA* | Jun 1991 - Jun 1993

**SENIOR PASTOR**, Bush Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church | *Winder, GA* | Jun 1989 - Jun 1991

**PASTOR**, Hemphill A.M.E. Zion Church | *Summerville, GA* | Nov 1986 - Nov 1988

**PASTOR**, Lawrence Temple A.M.E. Zion Church | *Menlo, GA* | Nov 1986 - Nov 1987

## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Antioch School of  
Church Planting  
& Leadership  
Development  
*Ames, Iowa*  
Jan 2013 - Aug 2017

### VICE PRESIDENT, URBAN MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

- Spearheaded urban outreach initiatives, facilitating partnerships with church leadership and congregations as a part of the Antioch School Program established by the Biblical Institute for Leadership Development, a program accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission to offer bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in the context of local churches.

The Petros Group  
*Mitchellville, MD*  
Mar 2012 - July 2017

### CONSULTANT

- Offers consulting services designed to facilitate learning in the areas of leadership development, strategic planning, change management, executive coaching, and community engagement.
- Works closely with enterprise leadership and cross-functional teams to identify requirements, establish a road map, and strategize best practices for improving business performance.
- Empowers business leaders to enhance management and operational strategies, leading hands-on, engaging training sessions that highlight development and learning initiatives.

Zion Development  
Corporation, Inc.  
*Baltimore, MD*  
Sep 2008 - Jul 2017

### PRESIDENT/CEO

- Provided executive leadership and administrative support for a non-profit, faith-based community development organization seeking to provide low-to-moderate housing options and facilitate outreach and engagement opportunities in the historic Upton neighborhood of Baltimore.

Department of  
Christian Education  
A.M.E. Zion Church  
*Charlotte, NC*  
Dec 2000 - Jul 2010

### DIRECTOR/ADVISOR OF YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

- Served in an advisory position, overseeing the establishment and engagement of a young-adult focused ministry initiative.
- Established a systematic approach to mentorship and relational investment in young adult ministry, overseeing connectational programming for the denomination.
- Provided consultative services as an advisor/mentor for the General Steering Committee

### LEAD COMMUNITY ORGANIZER

Mattapan-  
Dorchester Churches  
in Action  
*Boston, MA*  
Jan 1992 - Jun 1993

- Served as the executive director of a faith-based community organization in inner-city Boston, seeking to facilitate increased community engagement, drive improvements, and advocate for political action.
- Collaborated with local pastors and leadership to establish a strategy for executing organizational objectives in a way that would garner notable change.

## HONORS & RECOGNITION

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**INDUCTEE**, Martin Luther King, Jr., Collegium of Scholars, Morehouse College | 2021

**PARTICIPANT**, Harvard Seminar for New Presidents, Harvard University Graduate School of Education | 2019

**PARTICIPANT**, Harvard Seminar on Presidential Leadership, Harvard University Graduate School of Education | 2019

**INDUCTEE**, Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers, Morehouse College | 2002

# LESTER A. McCORN, D. Min., Ph.D. (candidate)

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## PUBLICATIONS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**AUTHOR**, *“Standing on Holy Ground: An Africentric Ministry Approach to Prophetic Community Engagement.”* (MMGI, Chicago, 2012)  
**ARTICLES**, McCorn, Lester. 2021. *A Vision of the Promised Land: The Enduring Legacy of Martin Luther King’s Grassroots Campaign for Economic Justice*. Penumbra Journal, Volume 8, Issue 1, Summer 2021. Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, Ohio.

## EDUCATION

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, LEADERSHIP AND CHANGE, MAJOR IN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Antioch University | *Yellow Springs, OH* | Expected June 2024 (Teach Out with Union Institute and University, Cincinnati, OH)  
*Concentration in Ethical and Creative Leadership, Specialization in Martin Luther King Jr. Studies & Social Change*  
*Dissertation Topic: “Good News for the Poor and More: Towards Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Radical Gospel of Economic Justice in Pursuit of the Beloved Community”*

### CERTIFICATE, DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

University of South Florida | *Tampa, FL* | January 2024

### CERTIFICATE, COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGIES

University of Baltimore, School of Public Affairs | *Baltimore, MD* | 2013

### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY, LEADERSHIP & SOCIAL JUSTICE/POLITICAL ACTION (Gardner C. Taylor Fellow)

United Theological Seminary | *Dayton, OH* | 2011

### COURSES COMPLETED, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY STUDIES, HISTORY, THEOLOGY & ETHICS

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary | *Evanston, IL* | 2003 - 2006

### MASTER OF ARTS, THEOLOGY & ETHICS

Chicago Theological Seminary | *Chicago, IL* | 2003

### BACHELOR OF ARTS, LIBERAL STUDIES

Charter Oak State College | *Newington, CT* | 2001

### MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDIES

Yale University School of Divinity | *New Haven, CT* | 1996-1999

### CERTIFICATE, URBAN MINISTRIES’ STUDIES

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Center for Urban Ministerial Education | *Boston, MA* | 1992-93

### BACHELOR OF ARTS STUDIES, RELIGION & SOCIOLOGY

Morehouse College | *Atlanta, GA* | 1984-1989

*Featured Alpha Stepper in Spike Lee iconic college life movie “School Daze” in 1988*

*President of Alpha Rho Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 1987- 1988*

*President of Freshman Class, 1984*

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

**MEMBER**, International Leadership Association

**MEMBER**, American Academy of University Professors

**MEMBER**, American Academy of Religion

**MEMBER**, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

**BOARD CHAIR**, Habitat for Humanity of York County | 2019 - present

**BOARD MEMBER**, Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation | 2020 - present

**FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER**, Arts Center at Fountain Park | 2020 - present

**FOUNDING CO-CHAIR - STEERING COMMITTEE**, Clinton ConNEXTion Consortium | 2019 - present

**CHAIR OF THE ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE**, Illinois Conference of Churches | 2003 - 2005

**FELLOW**, Leadership Greater Chicago | 2002 - 2003

**VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**, New Haven Public Schools | 1996 - 1998

**INAUGURAL FELLOW**, Next Generation Leadership Program, Rockefeller Foundation | 1996 – 1998





**The Reverend Dr. Lester A. McCorn,  
President, Clinton College, Rock Hill, South Carolina**

Rev. Dr. Lester A. McCorn is described as a transformational leader, scholar, activist, and executive. A native of Worcester, Massachusetts, he is the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Clinton College, a private historically Black college (HBCU) founded in 1894 by the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church in Rock Hill, South Carolina, just south of Charlotte, North Carolina. The New Clinton has experienced dramatic growth in enrollment and student success. The College is currently executing a transformative \$25 million campus building program, which includes its first new medical clinic, a newly constructed Academic Success Center and a Digital Library and Learning Commons. Clinton recently completed its 10-year accreditation reaffirmation evaluation with zero suggestions, findings, or recommendations. President McCorn has led the collaboration of community leaders and neighborhood stakeholders in the establishment of the Clinton ConNEXTion, a master-planned initiative to advance economic and community development on the southside of Rock Hill. He has also established the Clinton Center for Social Innovation located in new offices in Fountain Park Place in downtown. During President McCorn's tenure the College has hosted on campus events with several distinguished dignitaries and special guests, including U.S. President Joe Biden, Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, and Raphael Warnock, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, and awarded an honorary doctorate to Rev. Dr. Bernice A. King, daughter of Martin Luther King and Coretta Scott King.

In the last three years, Clinton College has received several major grants totaling more than \$7 million for new programs, addressing technology, cybersecurity, and health literacy and disparities through the Clinton Health ConNEXTion initiative, and the new Wellness and Community Health (WACH) Institute. In addition to a new online global learning program, Clinton is expanding in twenty satellite learning centers in rural areas of South Carolina. The College is adding new bachelor's degree programs in nursing, healthcare management, cybersecurity, and music. Clinton's new Work program provides skill building and internships for students which cover the cost of their tuition.

A committed community leader and social justice advocate, President McCorn is the Chair of the Board of Habitat for Humanity of York County, Vice Chair of the Board of the Urban League of Central Carolinas, and member of the boards of the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation, the Arts Center at Fountain Park, and Victory Gardens, an urban farming and social entrepreneurship organization. He is the founding President/CEO of the Clinton College Community Development Corporation. He is the former Vice President of the New Haven School Board.

President McCorn is an alumnus of Morehouse College, Yale Divinity School, and Chicago Theological Seminary. He holds the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) from United Theological Seminary, where he was a Gardner C. Taylor Fellow in social justice and prophetic leadership and Adjunct Professor/Doctoral Mentor. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Interdisciplinary Studies, with a specialization in Martin Luther King Jr. Studies and Social Change at Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio. President McCorn was a part of the 2019 cohorts of the Harvard University Seminar for New Presidents and Presidential Leadership. He has received many honors and awards. He is an inductee of both the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers and the Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College. He is also a former leadership fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation and Leadership Greater Chicago. While a student at Morehouse, he was a congressional intern to the late Congressman John Lewis (D-GA). He was featured in the iconic 1988 Spike Lee movie "School Daze" as a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha step team (Alpha Rho Chapter).

***"A Beacon for Leaders"***

1029 Crawford Road, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29732

[www.clintoncollege.edu](http://www.clintoncollege.edu)

803.327.7402 ext. 8149

Rev. Dr. McCorn is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and a former pastor of churches in Baltimore, Atlanta, Chicago, Boston and New Haven, Connecticut. Prior to his appointment to Clinton, he was the Senior Pastor of the 1500-member Pennsylvania Avenue AME Zion Church of Baltimore. He is the author of "Standing on Holy Common Ground: An Africentric Ministry Approach to Prophetic Community Engagement" (MMGI Press: Chicago).

Dr. McCorn is a proud Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Mrs. Charlene M. McCorn, an elementary school teacher in Fort Mill, South Carolina. They are the proud parents of four adult children and three grandchildren.

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