



SEMINARY OF THE  
SOUTHWEST

## McDonald Teaching Award **The Rev. Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown**

Preacher. Scholar. Teacher. Mentor. You embody the vocation of theological education through a life committed to faithful proclamation, rigorous scholarship, and the formation of preachers who carry the gospel with courage and clarity. Your work reminds us that teaching is not merely the transmission of knowledge but the shaping of voices—voices called to proclaim hope, justice, and healing in the world.

Your academic journey reflects a profound commitment to both the church and the academy. Formed within the rich traditions of Black preaching and disciplined theological scholarship, you have devoted your life's work to advancing the art, theology, and practice of proclamation. Through your research, writing, and leadership, you have helped expand the horizons of homiletics while nurturing a new generation of ministers who preach with intellect, integrity, and imagination.

Across decades of service in theological education, you have distinguished yourself as one of the most respected voices in preaching. Your classrooms have become sacred spaces where students are challenged to think deeply, preach boldly, and lead faithfully. Through your scholarship, you remind the church that proclamation must always speak truth with courage and care for the souls entrusted to its hearing. With prophetic clarity, you remind us that *God Don't Like Ugly*, calling preachers toward integrity and justice in the pulpit. With pastoral honesty, you give voice to the quiet exhaustion many ministers carry, asking the question so many have felt but few have named: *Can a Sister Get a Little Help?* Attentive to the voices too often silenced, you remind the church that even *Weary Throats and New Songs* continue to rise from the witness of Black women proclaimers whose voices reshape the sound of the gospel. Through your enduring work in homiletics, you guide generations of ministers in the sacred and joyful labor of *Delivering the Word* with theological depth, pastoral wisdom, and Spirit-filled imagination.

But perhaps your most enduring legacy is found in the lives of those you have taught and mentored. You have nurtured generations of preachers who carry your influence into pulpits, classrooms, and communities across the country. With wisdom, encouragement, and holy expectation, you have guided students to discover their voices while remaining rooted in the gospel they proclaim.

Those shaped by your life and work testify to your extraordinary influence. The Rev. Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams reflects, "Before I met her, Teresa Fry Brown had already made a difference in my life. Her name was on a then short list of Black women in the academy who served as an example to me because of her commitment to scholarship and the church. Then and now, she is the embodiment of excellence and wisdom. It is an honor to know her and call her a colleague."

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie likewise affirms that "Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown stands within the sacred stream of AME preaching as a homiletical scholar who knows that proclamation involves carefully nurturing souls and bravely telling the truth. She has shaped generations of preachers who touch the wounds and hopes of the people with a clear mind and an unwavering commitment to the liberating word of God."

Pastor Otis Moss III adds, "Dr. T is our Poet Laureate of the pulpit who offers the world sacred homiletical stanzas crafted upon a womanist canvas of revolutionary love. I have personally been educated, mentored, strengthened, and blessed by her embodied pedagogy of compassion, kindness, and thoughtful theological reflection."

Otis Moss III, "the one who loves being claimed as her little brother."

In gratitude for your extraordinary contributions to theological education, and for the countless students and ministers whose voices have been shaped by your wisdom, scholarship, and faithful teaching, Seminary of the Southwest is honored to present you with the McDonald Teaching Award, recognizing your outstanding commitment to forming preachers and leaders for the church and the world.

Austin, TX

March 9, 2026