

The Rev. Judy Fentress-Williams, Ph.D.

Judy Fentress-Williams is Professor of Old Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary. She joined the faculty in 2002. In addition, Dr. Fentress-Williams serves as Special Assistant to the Senior Pastor and Director of Christian Education at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dr. Fentress-Williams received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Yale University in 1999. Her dissertation entitled, "What Has Happened to the Son of Kish? A Dialogic Reading of Saul in I Samuel" reflects her interest in a literary approach that celebrates the multiple voices and inter-textuality of scripture. She earned her M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1990 and her A.B. in English from Princeton University with certificates in African-American Studies and American Studies in 1984.

Prior to her appointment at Virginia Seminary, Judy was a member of the faculty of Hartford Seminary from 1994-2002 as Professor of Hebrew Bible. She was also the director of the Black Ministries Program, a certificate program designed to meet the needs of African-American clergy and laity in the greater Hartford area.

Dr. Fentress-Williams' published essays include, "*The Bible in Dialogue*" in "*September 11: Religious Perspectives on the Causes and Consequences*" "Location, Location, Location: Tamar in the Joseph Cycle" in *Bakhtin and Genre*, and "Exodus" in *Biblia Africana*. She recently published a commentary on the book of Ruth for the Abingdon Old Testament Commentary Series. A member of the Society of Biblical Literature, she is an active participant in the Bakhtin and Biblical Studies Group and she serves on the Advisory Board for the Office of Religious Life at Princeton University.

Judy is married to Kevin Williams, M.D. and they have two children, Samantha and Jacob.