

SIGNIFICANT BLACK WOMEN OF THE RECONSTRUCTION ERA & BEYOND

Reading List & Definitions



FELICIA HOWELL LABOY

Felicia Howell LaBoy, Ph.D., MBA, MDiv., ACC

Significant Black Women of the Reconstruction Era & Beyond Reading List

Ifi Amadiume, *Reinventing Africa: Matriarchy, Religion & Culture*

Cheryl B. Anderson, *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*

Liz S. Alexander and Melanie C. Jones, et al. #MillennialWomanism.

<https://btpbase.org/millennialwomanism/>

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, *Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*

Katie G. Cannon, Emilie Towns, Angela Sims (ed), *Womanist Theological Ethics: A Reader*

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*

M. Shawn Copeland, *Enfleshing Freedom: Body, Race, and Being*

Anna Julia Cooper, *The Vital Agency of Womanhood in the Regeneration and Progress of a Race.*

Monica Coleman, *Ain't I a Womanist, Too?: Third Wave Womanist Religious Thought*

Bettye Collier-Thomas, *Jesus, Justice and Jobs: African American Women and Religion*

Kimberlee Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics"

Angela Davis, *Women, Race and Class*

Keri Day, *Unfinished Business: Black Women, the Black Church, and the Struggle to Thrive in America*
_____, *Religious Resistance to Neoliberalism: Womanist and Black Feminist Perspectives*

Joy DeGruy, *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome: America's Legacy of Enduring Injury and Healing*

Musa W. Dube and R.S. Wafula (ed.), *Postcoloniality, Translation, and the Bible in Africa*

Kelly Brown Douglas, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*

Robin J. Ely and David A. Thomas, "Getting Serious About Diversity: Enough Already with the Business Case," *Harvard Business Review* (November – December, 2020)

Tyrone McKinley Freeman, *Madam C. J. Walker's Gospel of Giving: Black Women's Philanthropy during Jim Crow*

Stacey Floyd-Thomas et al. *Deeper Shades of Purple: Womanism in Religion and Society*

Jacquelyn Grant, "The Sin of Servanthood," in *A Troubling In My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*

Paula J. Giddings, *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*

Melanie Harris, *Ecowomanism: African American Women and Earth Honoring Faiths*

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church, 1880–1920*

bell Hooks, *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*

Alan G. Johnson, *The Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy*
_____, *Privilege, Power, and Difference*

Robert P. Jones, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity*

Stephanie V. Mitchem, *Introducing Womanist Theology*

Felicia Howell LaBoy, Keith Donaldson Lawrence, Donnell J. Moore, Jr., *Prophets To The Nations: Black Methodism, Liberation and America's Quest for Racial Justice*

Pamela R. Lightsey, *Our Lives Matter: A Womanist Queer Theology*

Tamura Lomax, *Jezebel Unhinged: Loosing the Black Female Body in Religion and Culture*

Laura L. Lovett, *With Her Fist Raised: Dorothy Pitman Hughes and the Transformative Power of Black Community Activism*

Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí, *The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses*

Anthony B. Pinn and Dwight H. Hopkins (ed.), *Loving the Body: Black Religious Thought and The Erotic*

Layli Phillips, *The Womanist Reader: The First Quarter Century of Womanist Thought*

Marcia Y. Riggs, *Can I Get a Witness? Prophetic Religious Voices of African American Women : An Anthology*

_____, *Plenty Good Room: Women Versus Male Power in the Black Church*

Rosetta E. Ross, *Witnessing and Testifying: Black Women, Religion and Civil Rights*

Mitzi J. Smith, *Womanist Sass and Talk Back: Social (In)Justice, Intersectionality, and Biblical Interpretation*

Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*

Chanequa Walker-Barnes, *I Bring the Voices of My People: A Womanist Vision for Racial Reconciliation*

_____, *Too Heavy A Yoke: Black Women and the Burden of Strength*

Delores Williams, *Sisters in the Wilderness: The Challenge of Womanist God-Talk*

Traci C. West, *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics*

_____, *Solidarity and Defiant Spirituality: Africana Lessons on Religion, Racism, and Ending Gender Violence*

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Significant Black Women of the Reconstruction Era & Beyond Definition of Womanism*

1. FROM **WOMANISH**. (Opp. of “girlish,” i.e., frivolous, irresponsible, not serious.) A black feminist or feminist of color. From the black folk expression of mothers to female children, “You acting womanish,” i.e., like a woman. **Usually referring to outrageous, audacious, courageous or willful behavior. Wanting to know more and in greater depth than is considered “good” for one. Interested in grown-up doings. Acting grown up. Being grown up.** Interchangeable with another black folk expression: “You trying to be grown.” **Responsible. In charge. Serious.**
2. Also: **A woman who loves other women, sexually and/or nonsexually.** Appreciates and prefers women’s culture, women’s emotional flexibility (values tears as natural counterbalance of laughter), and women’s strength. Sometimes loves individual men, sexually and/or nonsexually. **Committed to survival and wholeness of entire people, male and female.** Not a separatist, except periodically, for health. **Traditionally universalist**, as in: “Mama, why are we brown, pink, and yellow, and our cousins are white, beige, and black?” Ans.: “Well, you know the colored race is just like a flower garden, with every color flower represented.” **Traditionally capable**, as in: “Mama, I’m walking to Canada and I’m taking you and a bunch of other slaves with me.” Reply: “It wouldn’t be the first time.”
3. **Loves** music. Loves dance. Loves the moon. Loves the Spirit. Loves love and food and roundness. Loves struggle. Loves the Folk. Loves herself. **Regardless...**
4. **Womanist is to feminist as purple to lavender.**

* Alice Walker, *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; Second Printing edition, 1983.

REV. FELICIA LABOY

Ph.D., MBA, ACC

PASTOR

COACH

AUTHOR

Motivational Speaker

Life Coach

Social Innovator

Change Agent



These are just a few words commonly used to describe **Dr. Felicia LaBoy, Lead Pastor and Life Coach of the historic First United Methodist Church** in Elgin, IL. Dr. LaBoy is also **Lead Coach and Founder of The Orchestrated Effect, LLC**, a coaching and consulting company that helps individuals, organizations, churches and communities **move from being “good” to “great;” and from being “stuck” to being “unstuck.”**

A popular keynote speaker, workshop leader, and preacher, Felicia is well known for her practical, pragmatic, and common-sense approach geared towards measurable results in business, academic, and church settings. She is also an experienced Fortune 100 company leader with 30+ years of community and professional organizational leadership skills, Felicia makes and continues to make her mark in the fields of community and leadership development; organizational development and redevelopment; diversity beyond inclusion; and graduate school education.

She has coached and trained hundreds of clients to determine and leverage assets; build diverse and inclusive teams; engage strategic partners and utilize transformative leadership practices to develop initiatives that help them adapt and thrive in changing times, always with an eye towards their bottom line. Her objective is always to weave her academic, pastoral, and business education and experience to lead individuals and diverse groups in achieving better churches, communities, and organizations.

In addition to her business, academic and pastoral experience, Felicia is an author and coach dedicated to helping people break through what holds them back from manifesting their dreams and impacting the world around them. She understands her life's work as helping people and organizations become their best selves. Her books include ***Table Matters: The Sacraments, Evangelism and Social Justice***, ***Unstuck: 8 Steps You Can Take Right Now To Possess Your Promise; Prophets to the Nations: Black Methodism, Black Methodism, Liberation, and the American Quest for Racial Justice*** and ***Not For Women Only: Leadership Lessons From Women in the Bible – A 40-Day Devotional*** (Winter 2022).

Felicia is an Elder in the Northern IL Conference of the United Methodist Church. Her academic credentials include a Ph.D. and MDiv. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary with concentrations in evangelism, theology, ethics, and history; an MBA from Duke University, and an M.A. in Christian Ministry from Indian Christian Ministry. She is also a certified professional coach through the International Coaching Federation and the Institute for Excellence in Coaching.

Why Settle for Small When Greatness Lies Within

felicia@drfelicialaboy.com
www.drfelicialaboy.com

CONTACT ME

For more information or to schedule speaking engagements, workshops, individual or group coaching, and/or consulting, please contact me at:

Felicia Howell LaBoy, Ph.D., MBA, ACC
The Orchestrated Effect, LLC
11N165 Johnstown Road
Elgin, IL 60124
773-217-9844
felicia@drfelicialaboy.com
www.drfelicialaboy.com

Follow me on

Facebook: www.facebook.com/felicia.laboy.5

Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn: [@drfelicialaboy.com](https://www.instagram.com/drfelicialaboy.com)

