

Kathleen S. Turner, PhD

Kathleen, a native New Yorker, began dancing at the age of five at the Gloria Jackson Dance Studio. After graduating from the New York High School of Performing Arts, she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from SUNY Purchase and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Sarah Lawrence College. Kathleen graduated from Yale Divinity School with a Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree in 2009, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School in 2008 and received a Certificate of Merit from the Institute of Sacred Music, an affiliate of Yale Divinity School. Kathleen graduated May 2012 with her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Religious Education from Fordham University. Kathleen has danced with many New York based choreographers and has worked extensively with Director/Choreographer, Dianne McIntyre as a member of the *Sounds In Motion Dance Company* touring the United States and Europe. Kathleen continues to work as artistic associate with Ms. McIntyre on independent choreographic projects. Kathleen was a tenured Associate Professor in the Dance Program at CUNY Hunter College from 1994-2005. She has taught and choreographed for a variety of private dance studios, college programs, and theatre productions on the eastern coast in addition to teaching throughout Germany and Austria.

Kathleen is a recipient of numerous awards from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Yale University and the Society of Arts in Religious and Theological Studies (SARTS). Kathleen has delivered papers at the SARTS 2008 meeting at the American Association of Religion (AAR) in Chicago; at the 2011 and 2012 Religious Education Association Conferences; and at the Dancing the African Diaspora: Theories of Black Performance 2014 Conference at Duke University. Her Ph.D. dissertation, *“And We Shall Learn through the Dance:” Liturgical Dance as Religious Education*, investigates liturgical dance as religious education in the church as a community place of learning. Kathleen contributed a chapter in the book, *Readings in African American Church Music and Worship*, Volume 2, edited by James Abbingtion. Kathleen published her first manuscript, *And We Shall Learn Through the Dance: Liturgical Dance as Religious Education*, through Wipf and Stock under their PICKWICK Publications imprint July 2021. Kathleen has been commissioned to contribute a chapter on the relationship between sacred music and liturgical dance in the 2025 publication of *The New Oxford Handbook of Music and Theology* published by Oxford University Press.

Kathleen has taught at Drew Theological Seminary in the Master of Arts in Ministry degree program in the areas of liturgical dance, liturgy, and worship. Kathleen was a guest lecturer for the course, Forming Worshipping Communities for the Distance Learning Program at Calvin Theological Seminary and a current seminar and workshop presenter, choreographer and dancer for the Calvin Symposium on Worship, an international worship conference sponsored by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship on the campus of Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI. Kathleen has taught as an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary in the Master of Arts in Religious Education and Master Arts in Youth Ministry degree programs where she designed and taught courses using Moodle for both online and in person class courses. Kathleen served as the Director of Children, Youth and Families at the St. Gabriel’s Episcopal Church in Hollis, New York, under the direction of Father Terrence A. Lee. She is a Christian Education Consultant to a variety of churches within the tri-state area and was a guest workshop instructor for the 2014 Institute of Sacred Music at Yale Divinity School Congregations Project, *The Human Body and the Body of Christ*. Kathleen created and continues to teach a newly developed course, Worship: The Embodied Moment for Self and Church Community for Yale Divinity School and the Institute for Sacred Music. Kathleen is a longstanding member of the national Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the Religious Education Association, and the North American Professors of Christian Education.

Kathleen is the founding director of the Allen Liturgical Dance Ministry (ALDM) of the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York, choreographing over seventy-five dances for ALDM. She coordinated and co-coordinated ten international liturgical dance conferences from 1998 to 2014. In 2018 Kathleen returned home to the Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York as the Director of Christian Education/Discipleship, a position that oversees, creates, and instructs major Bible Study Programs both virtually and in person for both the adult and senior populations, Christian Nurturing and New Membership Studies. Kathleen is married to Mr. Curtis Turner, and they travel both separately and jointly throughout the United States ministering and co-choreographing for dance ministries, marriage enrichment ministries, church congregations and liturgical dance conferences.

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