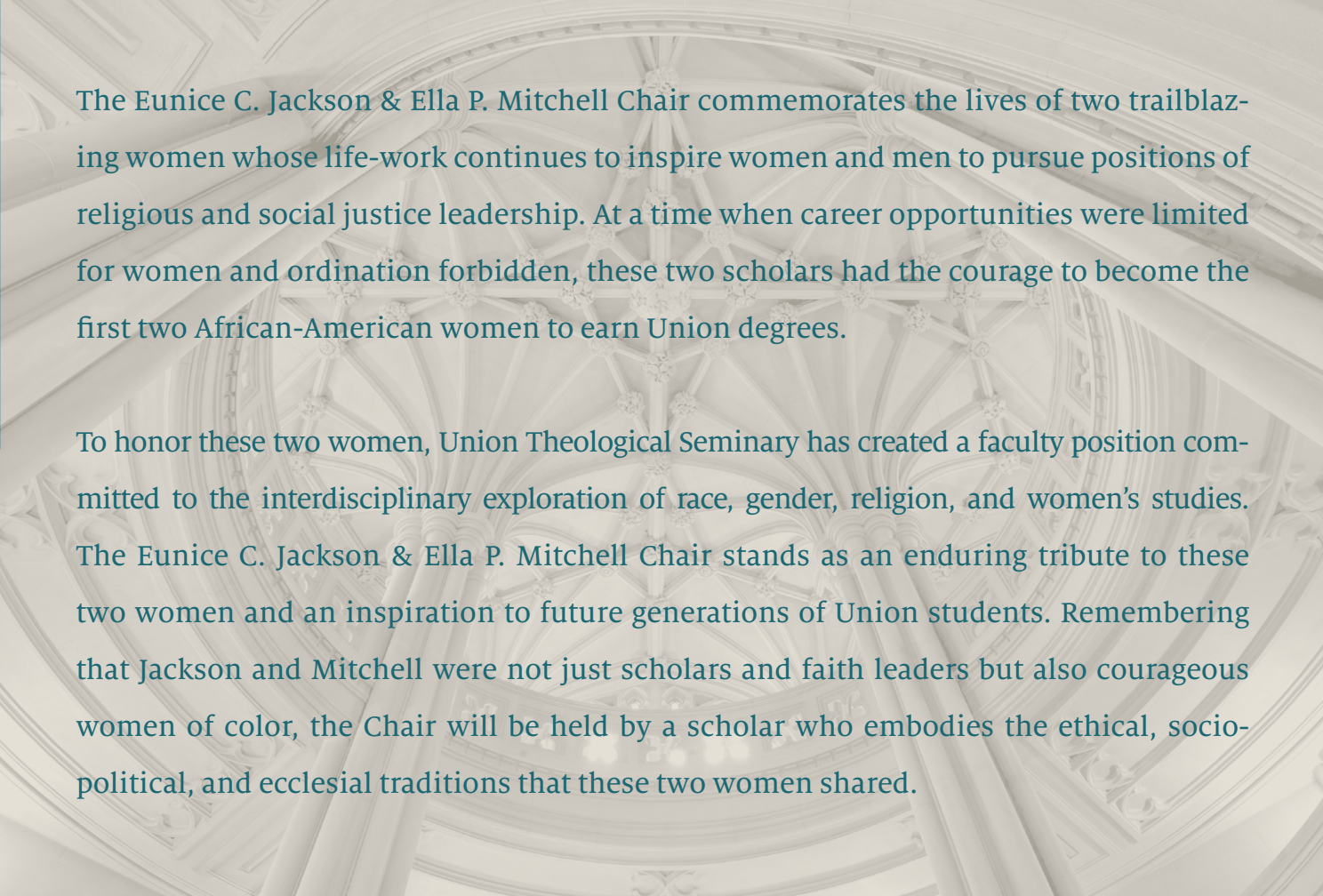




The Eunice C. Jackson & Ella P. Mitchell Chair
FOR WOMEN AND RELIGION AT UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*Honor the Legacy and
Commit to the Future of
Theological Excellence
for Women of Color*

Join Union's \$3 million campaign to fully
endow the Jackson-Mitchell Chair today!



The Eunice C. Jackson & Ella P. Mitchell Chair commemorates the lives of two trailblazing women whose life-work continues to inspire women and men to pursue positions of religious and social justice leadership. At a time when career opportunities were limited for women and ordination forbidden, these two scholars had the courage to become the first two African-American women to earn Union degrees.

To honor these two women, Union Theological Seminary has created a faculty position committed to the interdisciplinary exploration of race, gender, religion, and women's studies. The Eunice C. Jackson & Ella P. Mitchell Chair stands as an enduring tribute to these two women and an inspiration to future generations of Union students. Remembering that Jackson and Mitchell were not just scholars and faith leaders but also courageous women of color, the Chair will be held by a scholar who embodies the ethical, socio-political, and ecclesial traditions that these two women shared.



“The Jackson-Mitchell Chair for Women and Religion will carry the energy and prophetic vision of womanist theologians past and present well into the future. Union—as the birthplace of womanist theology—is the perfect place for this chair!”

—THE REV. DR. SERENE JONES

President & Johnston Family Professor of Religion and Democracy

The Spirit of the Jackson-Mitchell Chair

THE JACKSON-MITCHELL CHAIR will be held by a preeminent scholar whose teaching, scholarship, and service explore the complexities, challenges, and possibilities of black women's experiences in the church, academy,

and the world. The spirit of this Chair embraces the interdependence of intellectual, theological, Biblical, and ethical inquiry, highlighting the importance of womanist methodology and pedagogy.

Union Theological Seminary: A Legacy of Excellence

AS ONE OF THE FIRST SEMINARIES TO ENROLL WOMEN OF COLOR for graduate theological work, Union now graduates nearly three times the number of African-American women leaders than our peer schools do. Union is proud of and honored by alumnae such as Katie Cannon, Delores Williams, and Elaine Flake, among others, who stand on the shoulders of Jackson and Mitchell as visionary scholars and social justice leaders.

Today, just as it was for Jackson and Mitchell, Union is the seminary of choice for women of color preparing for faith-based leadership. Jackson's and Mitchell's legacy endures in our classrooms and in the community at large as it emboldens students dedicated to the study of theological issues that

intersect with race, gender, and class. The Jackson-Mitchell Chair will further enrich this community discussion by strengthening the emerging prophetic voices of women and men of color, as well as other students committed to a just society with equal opportunity for all.

In the words of Trustee John D. Maguire: "While every addition to the Union faculty is vitally important, the Jackson-Mitchell Chair leads the list. Now is the time to assure the permanency of the African-American woman's perspective on the issues that are the soul of the Union curriculum. This perspective has become an indispensable element in the formation of religious professionals, and such will be the case for a long time to come."



“I am a Chinese-American and am proud of my family and heritage. But the dominant influences in my life before matriculating at Union were those of a white, affluent, suburban world. At Union I encountered a city, world religions, liberation theology, black theology, feminist theology, and womanist theology. My world was expanded exponentially. I have been privileged to be a trustee since 1984 and there is no endowment initiative that I support more than the Jackson-Mitchell Chair.”

—CALVIN M. MEW, M.Div. 1973, *Board of Trustees*



“I stand with all of Union’s African-American women—past, present, and future—on the shoulders of these two phenomenal women. The Jackson-Mitchell Chair will guarantee womanist scholarship a permanent place at the table of ethical inquiry and religious discourse for generations to come. Your support will ensure that I can complete my journey from merely claiming faith and reiterating what others claim it to be, to defining my faith and understanding ‘the story’ for myself in the context of my own personal experience.”

—VALERIE ROSS, M.Div. 2014



EUNICE C. JACKSON

Eunice C. Jackson became the first African-American woman to graduate from Union Theological Seminary in 1940 with a Master of Arts in Christian Education. Her first job after graduation was as Church Secretary at The Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, where she was later appointed the first woman Director of Religious Education. Much of the core structure of the program she created still exists today. In 1944, Ms. Jackson became Instructor of Religious Education at Shaw University in Raleigh, NC. She later taught at the YWCA of New Castle, PA. She married concert tenor Bradford Williams, with whom she had a daughter, musician Branice Williams McKenzie.

ELLA P. MITCHELL

The Rev. Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell, the daughter of a South Carolina pastor, became the second African-American woman to graduate from Union in 1943 with a Master of Arts degree in Christian Education. She served as Minister of Education at the Church of the Master in New York City, as well as at St. James Presbyterian Church in Harlem. The year following her graduation, she married fellow Union graduate Henry H. Mitchell '44. They were married for 64 years, until her death in 2008.

Dr. Mitchell distinguished herself as an instructor and scholar in religious education at American Baptist Seminary of the West, Fresno State College, Second Baptist Church in Los Angeles, Compton College, Santa Monica City College, and Proctor School of Theology. From 1959 to 1973, she served on the Board of Educational Ministries of American Baptists, four

years as its president. In 1974, Mitchell received the Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology in Claremont, and was ordained at Allen Temple Baptist Church in Oakland in 1978. She was the first woman to preach at the Hampton Ministers' Conference and the first woman to serve as Dean of Sisters Chapel at Spelman College in Atlanta.

In addition to her work as an educator, Ella Mitchell edited *Women: To Preach or Not To Preach* (1991) and five volumes of *Those Preaching Women* (1985-2008). She and Henry Mitchell co-authored an autobiography of their marriage, *Together for Good* (1999), and *Fire in the Well: Sermons by Ella P. and Henry H. Mitchell* (2003). She was the recipient of Union Theological Seminary's Unitas Award, Claremont School of Theology's distinguished alumni/ae award; and was a Union Trailblazers honoree.



How to Participate

Please join us in remembering the spirit, the work, and the faith of Eunice C. Jackson and Ella P. Mitchell. Help memorialize their spirit of tenacity and bravery, of intellectual rigor and stalwart faith. Become a part of the Jackson-Mitchell Chair history yourself, today. Please contact Bob Bomersbach, V.P. for Institutional Advancement at 212-280-1426 to discuss how you can become involved.

You can also donate online at utsnyc.edu/donate/jackson-mitchell-chair.

UNION

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

304I Broadway at 121st Street
New York, NY 10027-5792

utsnyc.edu