

LLOYD ALEXANDER LEWIS JR.  
Trinity Class of 1969  
*Doctor of Divinity*

As the first African American from your hometown of Alexandria, Virginia, to be ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church, for 50 years you have exercised your calling as a preacher, a teacher, a pastor, and a distinguished scholar. This has brought you back to Trinity College to be recognized for a lifetime of leadership in the Episcopal Church.

Your vocations as a priest and scholar are confirmed by the impressive résumé of your work. You have represented the Episcopal Church as a member of the Programme for Theological Education of the World Council of Churches in Prague, Czech Republic, and you have served as a member of the General Board of Examining Chaplains of the Episcopal Church, which annually writes, administers, and evaluates the national General Ordination Examination for all the church's candidates for ordination.

Your long list of accomplishments includes an academic record of which the college is proud to be a part. As one of three classics majors in your Trinity graduating class, you learned the languages of Plato and Catullus, which you would pass on to generations of your students who would learn the thought of Saint Paul and Saint Augustine.

In the preaching in this college's Chapel during your undergraduate years, you were challenged by the theology of Howard Thurman, John Meyendorff, and Abraham Heschel. At the same time in Hartford's North End, during a turbulent time in America's and Hartford's history, you found a second home in a small yet dynamic Black Episcopal parish. There you learned the values of equity, inclusion, pluralism, and bold leadership, which are hallmarks of Trinity's own values. You would return to that same parish when you were in graduate school to serve as an assistant priest.

In 1985, Yale University conferred on you a Ph.D. in New Testament studies. Your scholarly specializations have included biblical exegesis, Pauline literature and theology, the social world of the New Testament, first-century slavery, African American hermeneutics, and the theological and social implications of baptism.

Concurrent with your teaching, you have served parishes in Brooklyn and Garden City, New York; in Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut; and in Washington, D.C.

You joined the Virginia Theological Seminary faculty in 1978 as an assistant, then associate, professor. In 1991, you became dean of George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology and bishop's deputy for education in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. In 2000, you returned to Virginia Seminary and classroom teaching. You were named the Molly Laird Downs Professor of New Testament, a position you held until your retirement in 2012.

In your writings, you have demonstrated significant connections between biblical scholarship and contemporary society. Deservedly and unsurprisingly, you are a member of Alexandria's African American Hall of Fame.

As a Trinity alumnus, you have remained a loyal supporter of the college, serving on the committee that planned the Class of 1969's 50th Reunion. You also were the chosen preacher at the 75th anniversary celebration of the dedication of the Trinity College Chapel.

In recognition of your distinguished career in the Episcopal Church and your devotion to a more just society in the world around us, I have the honor of presenting you, Lloyd Alexander Lewis Jr., for the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.