



Dr. Herbert Robinson Marbury

Bible Study Leader

Dr. Herbert Robinson Marbury is associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Vanderbilt University. A fifth-generation Methodist minister, he follows in the footsteps of his grandfather, the Rev. John W. Robinson, who was a member of the South Carolina Conference; his father, the late Chaplain (LTC) Herbert L. Marbury; and his mother, Annette R. Marbury, who is a retired educator.

He holds a Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University, and a master of divinity degree from Gammon Theological Seminary. He spent his undergraduate years at Emory University studying English and African-American Studies.

Dr. Marbury has taught Hebrew and biblical interpretation at American Baptist College and served as a mentor in the Doctor of Ministry Program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, for the program group "The Black Church and Social and Civic Empowerment." He has lectured and presented his scholarship at campuses, professional conferences and churches around the globe, including Harare, Zimbabwe, and Oxford, England.

An ordained elder in the North Georgia Conference, where Bishop L. Jonathan Holston was his supervising pastor, Dr. Marbury is the former pastor of Old National United Methodist Church in Riverdale, Georgia. In 2001, Marbury joined Clark Atlanta University as its university chaplain. While at CAU, he was named the chaplain of the year by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation for all 120 United Methodist Church related colleges and universities.

In 2006, Marbury joined the faculty at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he researches and writes on Old Testament, Hebrew, biblical hermeneutics and black religion. His most recent publication, "[Pillars of Cloud and Fire: The Politics of Exodus in African-American Biblical Interpretation](#)" (New York University Press, 2015), combines his interests by examining ways that African Americans from the antebellum period to the Black Power era turned to the book of Exodus to navigate paths toward freedom. He continues to consider it a blessing to be able to live into his calling to minister to the church, the academy and the world.