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AFRICAN AMERICAN RELIGION, THE BLACK CHURCH, AND MENTAL HEALTH

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African American Religion, the Black Church, and Mental Health

Synopsis:

This paper will focus on the notion that today the African American church rests upon a theological framework that not only confronts the consistent attack on the integrity of Black American religion, but also requires African Americans to speak on those notions that those systems, persons, and conditions that impede the worship and adoration of God, the Gospel, and the creation of a society based on social justice as well as take into consideration the African Americans' mental health.

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Today the African American church rests upon a theological framework and an African American historical legacy that not only confronts the consistent attack on the integrity of Black American religion; it also reflects the continual evolution of religion in the United States that requires African American theologians to always test the waters within their own religious institutions. In other words, in a world where African Americans are continually frustrated in their attempt to live their lives on their own terms, African American theologians, African American religious traditions, and the Black American church itself must speak to those systems, persons, and conditions that impede the worship and adoration of God, the Gospel, and the creation of a society based on social justice. Also important is that African American religion and the Black Church has provide a vehicle for the improvement of the mental health of person of African descent through items such as songs and spirituality. This presentation will examine these points in great details.