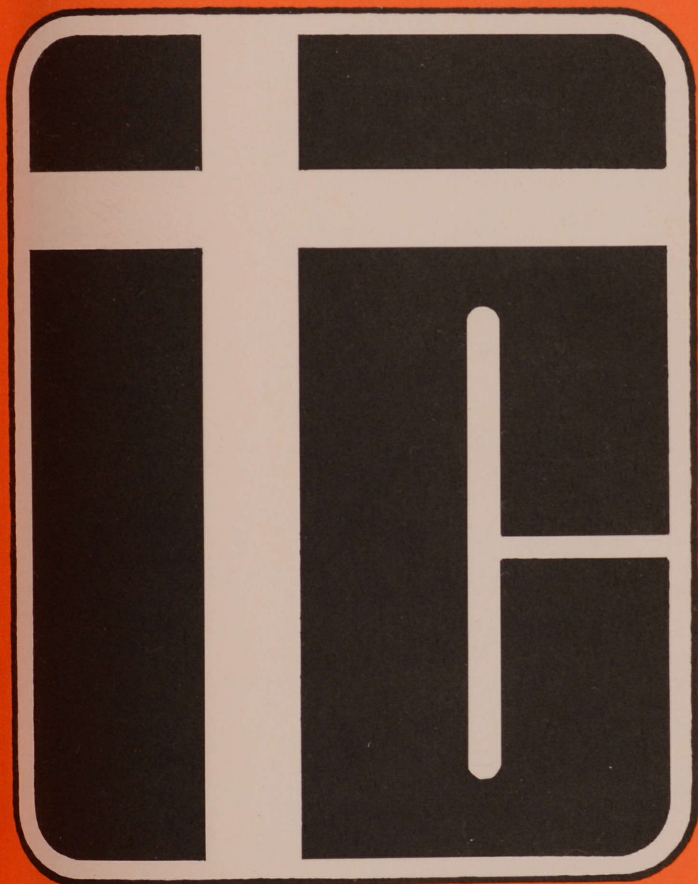


THE JOURNAL OF THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER

Volume VIII

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Number 2



- GAMMON
Theological Seminary
- ABSALOM JONES
Theological Seminary
- CHARLES H. MASON
Theological Seminary
- MOREHOUSE
School of Religion
- PHILLIPS
School of Theology
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SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL
INAUGURATION ISSUE

THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER
An Ecumenical Professional Graduate School of Theology

Dr. J. Deotis Roberts, President

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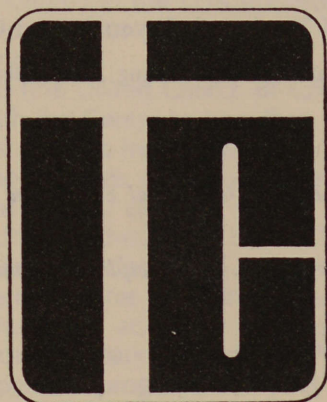
CLARK COLLEGE

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The Inauguration of President James Deotis Roberts

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A Brief Overview of The INTERDENOMINATIONAL THEOLOGICAL CENTER

The Center was chartered in 1958 as a cooperative experiment in graduate professional theological education by four denominations: United Methodist (Gammon Theological Seminary), Baptist (Morehouse School of Religion), Christian Methodist Episcopal (Phillips School of Theology), and African Methodist Episcopal (Turner Theological Seminary).

The United Presbyterian Church in the USA (Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary), and the Church of God in Christ (Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary) are the later additions to the Center.

Two other denominations (the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church) have special arrangements with the Center to train their candidates for Christian ministry. ITC welcomes and enrolls students from other denominations, too. In fact, just last year students from nine denominations in addition to those from the six supporting denominations were a part of the ITC census.

The Center is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Currently, it is in the process of obtaining accreditation in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools which will enable the Center to extend its services significantly. The Center is also actively related to the larger academic community in theological education through the Atlanta Theological Association. In addition, it is an integral part of Atlanta University Center and participates in programs of higher education with other schools in the Atlanta area.

Through the Georgia Association for Pastoral Care and the Urban Training Organization of Atlanta, ITC participates in training programs of clinical pastoral education and counseling and clinical field experiences in varieties of service institutions which serve human needs. The narrative above describes cooperation and team-work in modern, graduate, professional, theological education available at ITC and makes it comparable to that found anywhere on this planet.

ITC's mission is challenging, comprehensive and realistic: she is committed to the appropriateness of her unique venture in interdenominational, international, and interracial graduate professional theological education; and to preserve the culture and spiritual heritage of the Black Christian world and to apply it to the church in its struggle for liberation of oppressed people and for the reconciliation of all people in human living for personal and social betterment.

The Center is located north of Beckwith Street between Walnut and Chestnut Streets on a ten acre plot of land in the inner part of Atlanta University Center next to Morris Brown College. The site is a generous gift of Atlanta University. Current enrollment is nearly 300.

The Center is under the direction of a forty member Board of Trustees. Twenty-eight of them come from the six participating seminaries. The remaining twelve are members-at-large chosen without regard to denominational affiliation. They employ the faculty and administration, set the policies and manage the financial and physical resources of the Center.

The faculty of thirty-four members has fifteen instructors, four assistant professors, ten associate professors and five professors. Eighteen faculty members have earned doctorate degrees. By the end of the next commencement this will be increased by five. The faculty is selected for its scholastic achievements, teaching skills and community service. They teach in the field of their specialization. The present ones are: Bible, Church History, Philosophy and Theology, Church and Society, and Ministries of the Church. There are several departments in each of the first and latter two fields.

JAMES DEOTIS ROBERTS

Born in Spindale, North Carolina, July 12, 1927, James Deotis Roberts received his education at Johnson C. Smith University, A.B., *magna cum laude*, 1947 with majors in Religious Education, English and a minor in Philosophy; Shaw University, B.D., 1950 with a major in Religion; Hartford Seminary Foundation, B.D., 1951 and S.T.M., 1952 with a major in Philosophy of Religion, Thesis Topic: "The Problem of Faith and Reason in Pascal, Bergson and James"; University of Edinburgh, Ph.D., 1957 with a major in Philosophical Theology, Dissertation: "The Rational Theology of Benjamin Whichcote: Father of the Cambridge Platonists."

Professional Study has been pursued at Cambridge University, 1956; Lilly Foundation Fellow in Christianity and Politics at Duke University, 1960; Fellow in South Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin, 1962; Ford Foundation Faculty Fellow in South Asian Religion and Philosophy at the University of Chicago, 1963 and 1966, the University of California, 1964, the University of Wisconsin, 1965. Dr. Roberts was Study-Travel Fellow in Asian Religions of the Society of Religion in Higher Education, 1964-65 with travel in Japan, Korea, Formosa, Hong Kong, Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Switzerland, France, and the United Kingdom. He was a Fellow of the American Association of Theological Schools with Post Doctoral studies at Harvard Divinity School. He was on the Ford Foundation Faculty Development Seminar on East Asia at the University of Michigan, 1967; a Post Doctoral Fellow in Islamic Studies at Michigan State University, 1968; recipient of a Travel-Study Research Grant on African Religions, 1971 with travel in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Denmark, West Germany, France; a Senior Exchange Scholar in Theology of the Federal German Republic, based in Tubingen, 1977; engaged in Independent Research on Non-Violence — via a Grant from the Moton Foundation, 1978; a Faculty Fellow, ATSS grant, 1977-78; a Fellow in Case Study Institute for Theological Professors at Harvard Divinity School, 1976; in Dialogue with Liberation Theologians in Mexico City, 1978.

Dr. Roberts has held posts as Pastor of Union Baptist Church, Tarboro, N.C.; Assistant Pastor at Union Baptist Church in Hartford, Conn.; Dean of Religion at Georgia Baptist College, Macon, Ga.; Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Shaw University; Instructor to Professor - Theology, History and Philosophy of Religion at Howard University School of Religion; Visiting Professor: The Catholic University of America, Swathmore College, George Mason University; Dean, School of Theology of Virginia Union University; Professor of Theology and Editor, THE JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS THOUGHT at Howard University.

His memberships include the American Academy of Religion; International Sociological Research Institute; Continuing Committee on World Religions; American Theological Society; International Society of Political Psychology. He has lectured at Vanderbilt Divinity School; Princeton University; Harvard Divinity School; Bucknell University; Pennsylvania State University; Gordon-Conwell Seminary; Andover Newton Theological School; Shaw University; the Catholic University of America; Marburg and Tubingen Universities and at numerous other colleges, universities, church assemblies and learned societies at home and abroad.

He has written widely. His books include: FAITH AND REASON IN PASCAL, BERGSON AND JAMES; FROM PURITANISM TO PLATONISM IN 17TH CENTURY ENGLAND; LIBERATION AND RECONCILIATION: A BLACK THEOLOGY; QUEST FOR A BLACK THEOLOGY; EXTENDING REDEMPTION AND RECONCILIATION; A BLACK POLITICAL THEOLOGY and ROOTS OF A BLACK FUTURE: FAMILY AND CHURCH.

Dr. Roberts is married to the former Elizabeth Caldwell. Their children: Edin Charmaine; Carlita Rose; Kristian LaFerne.



James Deotis Roberts
Fourth President of
The Interdenominational Theological Center,
Atlanta, Georgia
1981