

LaKeesha Walrond assumes presidency of New York Theological Seminary

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LaKeesha Walrond, 47, became president of New York Theological Seminary on June 3. She is the first woman and first African American to hold the position.

For over a decade, Walrond served as executive pastor of First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem, a congregation with more than 10,000 participants. Earlier in her life, she earned a PhD in special education and literacy and worked for a decade as a teacher and principal in North Carolina. She has an MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Walrond told the *New York Times* that her goals for the school are to add more online education and nurture an inclusive environment. She has spoken of her own experience being cut off from a church scholarship when she became an unmarried mother.

She is the author of two books, *My Body Is Special*, aimed at children, and the e-book *You Are Bigger than Your Worst Pain: A Spiritual Guide to Pushing Past the Pain*. —*Christian Century* staff