

**Week 9 Assignment: Research Article**

ATH 613 Theological Research & Writing

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Horace W. Roberts Sr.

Jacobs, Tracie D. 2014. "AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ELDERS IN ADVENTIST CONGREGATIONS." *The Journal Of Applied Christian Leadership* 8, no. 1: 38-54. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 17, 2017).

The article, "African-American Women Elders in Adventist Congregations" written by Tracie Jacobs was both enlightening and fascinating to read. This study was a mixed methodology research study designed to answer the question about the leadership practices of African-American women elders in the Lake region conference of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This specific article was interesting due to the under studied group, African-American women elders, that was explored in the article. The article discussed the Black- feminist framework which in turn emphasized the importance of a transformational leader. The ideology behind the Black Feminist thought declares that visibility of Black women asserts self-determination and self-definition as essential, challenges the interlocking nature of oppression, and presumes an image of Black women as powerful and independent.<sup>1</sup> In layman's terms Black women in the church make up the majority of partakers, and they are powerful within the realm. The Black feminist thought would argue that Black women's perspectives are grounded in their unique experiences. According to Jacobs, a transformational leader is defined as one who is a visionary and communicates the future vision of the organization as a shared responsibility from all stakeholders.<sup>2</sup> As leaders in the Church, Black women have the ability to inspire and encourage those attending the Church since they are decision makers and team

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1 Jacobs, Tracie D. 2014. "AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ELDERS IN ADVENTIST CONGREGATIONS." *The Journal Of Applied Christian Leadership* 8, no. 1: 38-54. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 17, 2017).

2 Ibid.,39.

players in the church. The best part about this article was the mixed methodology utilized to examine the research question.

Utilizing a mixed methodology approach to the research question allowed for a greater understanding of African American women's role in the Church. By combining the numerical and qualitative approach to research this article was able delve deeper into the understanding the role of African American women in the Church. The Leadership Practice Inventory (LPI-Self/LPI-Other utilized in the study measured five leadership practices: Model the Way, Inspire a shared vision, enable others to act, encourage the heart, and challenge the process.<sup>3</sup> This inventory allows for the quantitative approach and qualitative responses to be measured by the researcher without tainting the methodology. The methodology really emphasized to this learner the importance of the scientific method and being able to replicate the study. However the most shocking part of this study were the results in regards to the leadership question. According to the researchers the leadership ability of African American women with fewer than five years experiences and those with over ten years experiences was not statistically different.<sup>4</sup> This was the most surprising revelation due to prior knowledge believing more experience would be significantly different. However that was not the case as this study revealed. An African-American female elder could have over ten years of experience, but their leadership ability would not significantly be different to that of someone with five years of experience. All together this was a fascinating article to learn about African American women and their leadership ability.

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3 Ibid., 41.

4 Ibid., 42.

## References

Jacobs, Tracie D. 2014. "AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN ELDERS IN ADVENTIST CONGREGATIONS." *The Journal Of Applied Christian Leadership* 8, no. 1: 38-54. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 17, 2017).