



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 9, 2020**

**ILIFF WELCOMES DR. PHILIP BUTLER AS TERM ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF  
THEOLOGY AND BLACK POSTHUMAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS**

DENVER, CO. – The Iliff School of Theology is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Philip Butler as Term Assistant Professor of Theology and Black Posthuman Artificial Intelligence Systems, effective June 1.

Dr. Butler previously held the position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Theological Studies at the Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California where he taught since 2017. Prior to the appointment at Iliff, Dr. Butler has taught an “Introduction to Theology” course during the 2019-20 academic year at the institution. He also spoke at Iliff’s Renewal Conference 2020 in February and participated at the inaugural event of Iliff’s AI Institute (May 2, 2019) which was held in collaboration with scientists and engineers in the Denver area.

“Dr. Butler brings knowledge, experiences, and vision that will deepen our excellent degree programs, and significantly enhance Iliff’s future work with new learners,” said Iliff President Tom Wolfe. “At Iliff, Dr. Butler will work with the AI Institute, generously funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, and will teach courses for our degree programs and public audience as a member of the faculty.”

As an academic, Dr. Butler brings an excellent teaching resume and cutting-edge scholarship that combines Black liberation theologies, race, spirituality and science, particularly artificial intelligence. He is also the founder of The Seekr Project, which is a distinctly Black conversational artificial intelligence with mental health capacities, combining machine learning and psychotherapeutic systems.

“I am incredibly excited to join Iliff’s innovative learning community as a faculty member,” said Dr. Butler. “I look forward to mentoring students, exploring uncharted paths in Black posthuman thought, and working with colleagues to break new ground concerning the ways that theological thought and AI research intersect and overlap, both in theory and in practice.”

In addition to his publications in the field of theology, philosophy, and science, Dr. Butler is also the author of *Black Transhuman Liberation Theology: Technology and Spirituality* (Bloomsbury, 2019) in which he investigates what might happen when Black people utilize technological advancements to enhance both Black spiritualities and Black bodies in the struggle of materializing liberating realities.

Dr. Butler received his BA from Morehouse College, M.Div. from the Candler School of Theology of Emory University, and MA and Ph.D. from the Claremont School of Theology. His teaching and research interests include theology, spiritual formation, neuroscience and spirituality, black studies, ethics, and technology.