

**FTE Appoints Matthew Wesley Williams Vice President of Strategic Initiatives**  
*Committed Leader Brings Skills to Advance FTE Initiatives and Mission*

ATLANTA, April 1, 2014 — Matthew Wesley Williams has been named Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE). He will serve as a member of FTE’s senior leadership team and is responsible for managing and overseeing the organization’s strategic initiatives that advance its vision and mission.

During Williams’ 10 years with FTE, he has guided recruitment efforts and leadership development opportunities for young adults and students exploring ministry and teaching. In his most recent position, Williams served as Director of Strategic Partnerships, building relationships with leaders of theological institutions and doctoral programs and overseeing FTE’s Doctoral Fellowships for Ph.D. and Th.D. students of color in bible, religion and theology. In his new role he will continue to oversee these doctoral initiatives along with FTE’s other strategic initiatives.

“Matthew brings strategic thinking and valuable institutional memory to his new role, which will help to advance our efforts in the next era of FTE’s work,” said FTE President Stephen Lewis. “During the last decade, he has demonstrated an enduring commitment to FTE’s vision and mission and has become a well-respected colleague within the organization and the field of theological education.”

Prior to FTE, Williams served at the National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer at Morehouse School of Medicine. There he coordinated the research, advocacy and educational initiatives of sixteen community cancer coalitions in 10 states in the American South. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center and bachelor’s degrees in both psychology and philosophy and religion from Florida A&M University. He is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

“I count it a privilege to be called to serve this vital organization in this role at such a pivotal moment in the life of the church and the academy. I look forward to working with partners to cultivate diverse, innovative leaders that will lead us courageously into the unknown future of our field,” said Williams.

The Forum for Theological Exploration is committed to cultivating diverse young adults to be faithful, wise and courageous leaders for the church and the academy. FTE provides resources and a forum for young adults and students to explore their purpose and call to pastoral ministry and teaching. For more information, visit [fteleaders.org](http://fteleaders.org).