

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Obery M. Hendricks, Jr. has joined the Opportunity Agenda as our [Senior Fellow on Faith and Opportunity](#).



Dr. Hendricks is one of the foremost commentators on the intersection of religion and politics in America. He has been called “one of the greatest intellectuals and most exciting scholars in America today.”

As issues of faith continue to play a central role in our nation’s discourse on social justice – from poverty and climate change to criminal justice – Dr. Hendricks will provide The Opportunity Agenda with deeper understanding and insight into the moral and ethical beliefs that shape national policies, public opinion and culture.

Dr. Hendrick’s book, *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus’ Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* (Doubleday, 2006), remains a seminal work within the sphere of religion, social justice and politics, and was the featured subject of the 90 minute C-SPAN special, “Class, Politics and Christianity.” His most recent book, *The Universe Bends Toward Justice: Radical Reflections on the Bible, the Church and the Body Politic* (Orbis, 2011), has been termed a “tour de force” by both scholars and politicians.

A past president of Payne Theological Seminary, the oldest African American theological seminary in the United States, Dr. Hendricks is currently a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in the Department of Religion and the Institute for Research in African American Studies, and is Emeritus Professor of Biblical Interpretation at New York Theological Seminary.

Dr. Hendricks is a frequent contributor to the *Huffington Post*, former editorial advisor to the award-winning *Tikkun* magazine, and a contributing editor to *The Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*. The *Dictionary of Biblical Interpretation* has called his work “the boldest post-colonial writing ever seen in Western biblical studies.”

We are both honored and excited to be working with him!