

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE



APRIL THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

9:30 A.M.

*John and Alice Butler Hall, Heritage Center
Dubuque, Iowa*

The ORDER of EXERCISES

Prelude

Charles Barland, DMA
University Organist and Professor of Music

Processional*

Derek Grant, *Bagpiper*
Professor Charles Barland
Amy Cerniglia (MDiv'24), *Student Marshal, Moderator of the Student Association*
Emmy Gimple (MDiv'27), *Crucifer*

Welcome*

Rev. Jeffrey F. Bullock, PhD
President of the University

Call to Worship*

Nicholas Elder, PhD
Associate Professor of New Testament

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
People: **This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!**
Leader: O come, let us praise God joyfully.
People: **Let us come with thanksgiving.**

Opening Prayer*

Associate Professor Nicholas Elder

Hymn*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Henry van Dyke Jr.

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale, and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

** Please stand as you are able*

Introduction of the Commencement Speaker

Lindsey Ward, EdD
Director of Seminary Vocation

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:18-31
Mark D. Ward, PhD
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Commencement Address

"Groaning Toward Graduation"
Vice President Mark D. Ward

AWARDING OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Acknowledgment of Award Recipients

Rev. Beth McCaw, DMin
Vice President of the University and Dean of the Seminary

Board of Trustees Recognition

Douglas J. Horstmann, MBA
First Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Vice President Beth McCaw

Awarding of Degrees

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Conferring of Hoods

Rev. Bradley Longfield, PhD
Faculty Marshal and Professor of Church History

Prayer for the Graduates

O Lord, uphold these graduates by your Holy Spirit.
Daily increase in them your gifts of grace, that they may
be faithful in service to you, both now and forever. Amen.

Charge to Graduates

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Closing Prayer

Rev. Emily Blue, MDiv
Pastor to Seminary Students

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Hymn*

Amazing Grace
John Newton

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, we have already come,
'Tis grace has brought us safe thus far, and grace will lead us home.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

Benediction*

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Recessional

Professor Charles Barland

Platform Party

Rev. Jeffrey F. Bullock, PhD, *President of the University*
Douglas J. Horstmann, MBA, *First Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees*
Rev. Bradley Longfield, PhD, *Faculty Marshal and Professor of Church History*
Rev. Beth McCaw, DMin, *Vice President of the University and Dean of the Seminary*
Mark D. Ward, PhD, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty*

Immediately following the service, you are cordially invited to a reception in the A.Y. McDonald Lobby, Heritage Center.

** Please stand as you are able*

SPRING 2024 COMMENCEMENT

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Moses Doyak Bilew	Lincoln, NE
Michael Eugene Burns	Erie, PA
Shannon RaeAnn Langston	Statesville, NC
Elizabeth S. Murphy	Stanfordville, NY

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Laura Forsyth Bolin	Pleasanton, CA
David Michael Paulik	Shaker Heights, OH
Virginia Ginny Shanda*	Perry, IA

MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

(The title of the student's master's project is listed below his or her name)

David P. Conde	Fairbury, NE
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Hope for the Hopeless: How Rural Churches Can Connect Those Who Suffer From Diseases of Despair to Hope in Christ

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Lorna R. Blackford	Keokuk, IA
Amy Cerniglia	Bradenton, FL
Sarah Marie Cornell	Bushnell, FL
Nathanial David Ferguson	Monona, IA
Joseph Andrew Masinick	Brooklyn, MI
Jessica Marie Andes Means	Jacksonville, FL
Ariel Elizabeth Mink	Novato, CA
Connor Brock Morrison	Abingdon, IL
Tina Lee Osterhouse*	Carnation, WA
Bobby Lee Snell III	Staunton, VA
Clare Stern-Burbano	Stilwell, KS
Jerusha C. VanCamp	Evansville, IN
Tyler Hill Walker	Cedar Rapids, IA
Stacey Kaye White	Decatur, AL
Jo Wiersema	Oregon, WI
Melanie Williams	Andover, NJ

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

(The title of the student's doctoral project is listed below his or her name)

Michael J. Durnin	Holmen, WI
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Leadership Development Through the Traditional Stations of the Cross

Lisa Joanne Johnson	Pine Island, MN
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Holy Word, Wholly Engaged: Reconnection with God and One Another in the Context of Worship

Charliam William Wayne Renne	Springfield, IL
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The District Superintendent as Chief Missional Strategist: A Participatory Trinitarian Vision

Carolyn Barks Wilson	Sarasota, FL
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A Practical Method for Laying a Foundation of Biblical Literacy for Senior Adults

*December 2023 Graduate

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Mark D. Ward, PhD
*Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of the Faculty*

"Groaning Toward Graduation"



Mark D. Ward serves the University of Dubuque as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty. In this role, he oversees all aspects of more than 45 academic programs offered at the undergraduate and graduate level. He is also responsible for the faculty, the curriculum, and the support services of the Charles C. Myers Library, Office of the Registrar, and Academic Success Center.

A native of central Iowa, Mark holds a bachelor of arts in economics and business from Calvin University, a master of business administration from the University of Denver, and a doctor of philosophy in business from the University of Illinois at Chicago. After a short career in human resource management, he spent several years on the faculty and in academic administration at Trinity Christian College. He has published in the areas of work values/work beliefs and provided consulting services to various non-profit organizations on mission development and strategic planning.

Mark arrived at UD in the fall of 2010. Since that time, he has joined a dedicated faculty and staff in strengthening and growing the learning opportunities at UD, with the goal of empowering UD faculty, staff, and students to contribute to the world as people of competence, character, and conviction. New undergraduate and graduate programs have been developed and many other programs enjoy increased external recognition for their excellence in academic and career preparation.

In 2015, he assumed responsibility for shepherding the Seminary through the implementation of the *New Day Dawning*, a plan developed by trustees and faculty for transforming theological education. Since that time, faculty and staff have positioned the Seminary to meet the emerging needs of the church, and UDTS stands as one of the few seminaries in the country experiencing growth.

Mark is married to Annalee Ward, director of the Wendt Center for Character Education. This summer, they will be transitioning to new avenues of service as they retire from the University of Dubuque. They have two married children and five grandchildren.

SEMINARY AWARDS

Stratemeier Prize in Bible

Awarded to the student who, in judgment of the Biblical Division faculty, has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the study of the Bible. Gifts to the endowment were made in memory of Dr. K.J. Stratemeier, professor of New Testament in the seminary (1940 to 1952) and patriarch of a family that had several college and seminary graduates. Dr. Stratemeier graduated from the seminary in 1916, and his wife, Gertrude, was one of the first women to graduate from the college, also in 1916.

Bobby Lee Snell, III

The Joseph Mihelic Scripture Reading Prize

This reading contest was established out of the conviction that scripture reading plays a vital part in the worship of God, and that it should therefore be read with clarity, conviction, and reverence in order that hearers may know they are listening to the Word of God. All enrolled students are welcome to participate by offering their best reading of the assigned text, from which readings preaching and worship faculty will select first, second, and third prize winners.

First: Amy Cerniglia and Tyler Walker

Second: Lorna Blackford

Third: David Conde

The Bastian Endowed Award

Awarded annually to a graduating senior who has achieved the highest academic standing during the academic year in which the award is made. This award was established by Rev. Dr. Dwight Bastian, former UDTS Council of Advisor member, in honor and memory of his parents, Ralph C. and Alice K. (Wall) Bastian.

Lorna Blackford

The Herbert E. Sr. and June E. Manning Prize for Public Worship

Awarded to the seminary student who demonstrates outstanding proficiency in the conduct of public worship. It results from the endowment gifts made by family and friends in memory of Herb Sr. and June Manning. Herb was a seminary graduate who served as the UDTS dean of students from 1948 to 1950, a pastor, and as a Presbyterian Church denomination staff.

Erin Norton

Tina Osterhouse

The VanDerZyl Preaching Prize

Awarded annually to a master of divinity graduating senior who, in the judgment of the homiletics faculty, has demonstrated the ability to relate faithfully a scriptural text to the contemporary situation, and who shows the greatest potential to excel in a preaching ministry. It was funded by endowment gifts from Roger and Beverly VanDerZyl, elders at GracePoint Community Church in Dubuque.

Ariel Mink

The Baird Prize for Preaching

Awarded to a Master of Divinity student who, in the judgment of the homiletics faculty, has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in preaching. This endowment was created to honor the retirement of Dr. John Baird, professor of homiletics and ministry from 1976 to 1994.

Melanie Williams

SEMINARY AWARDS

Eugene and Winifred Davis Middler Award for Promise in Pastoral Ministry

Awarded annually to a middler student who plans to enter the pastoral ministry and who, in the judgment of the faculty and professional staff, shows promise in this calling. It was established by Mrs. Nancy Wallace in honor of her parents.

Erin Norton

The Donald G. Bloesch Theology Endowed Award

Awarded annually to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the history and theology faculty, has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the study of theology. It was begun by a graduating seminary student, Ken Haines, in 1997 to honor Dr. Donald G. Bloesch, professor of theology at UDTS from 1957 to 1992.

Jessica Means

The Plato E. Sargent Achievement Prize

Awarded to the junior and middler students who have achieved the highest academic standing in their respective classes during the academic year in which the award is made. The endowment came from the estate gift of Plato E. Sargent, a dedicated church elder and attorney.

Juniors: Amanda Fuls, Emmy Gimple, and Natasha Leader

Middler: Linda Atkins

The Thomas F. Torrance Award

Thomas F. Torrance (1913 to 2007) was born to missionary parents in Chengdu, China, and is widely recognized as the greatest theologian in the English-speaking world in the second half of the 20th century. In 1978, Torrance received the Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion for his contributions to the dialogue between theology and natural science. The award is presented to a master in divinity middler student who, in the judgement of the history and theology faculty, has demonstrated scholarly excellence in theology.

Joseph Leggett

The John Wesley Prize

Awarded to a United Methodist student who has demonstrated scholarly excellence in church history and theology courses, as determined by faculty in that division. It results from endowment gifts made by seminary faculty and staff.

Anna Walker

The David G. and Jonathan Scotchmer Memorial Endowment Fund Globalization Award

This award enables a seminary student to participate in cross-cultural experience as part of their UDTS Education. It was established by the Scotchmer family in memory of Dr. David Scotchmer, associate professor of mission and evangelism at UDTS at the time of his death in 1995, and his son Jonathan, who preceded him in death.

Amanda Fuls

The C. Howard Wallace Endowed Award for Excellence in Old Testament Studies

This award is presented to a graduating senior who plans to do graduate work in biblical studies and/or travel in biblical lands. It was made possible by Mrs. Charlene Wallace in honor of her son Howard's teaching and service to the church. Dr. C. Howard Wallace was a professor of Biblical theology from 1959 to 1996.

Rebecca Lister

SEMINARY AWARDS

The Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship and Practice

Awarded to a senior student who, in the judgment of the selection committee, has given evidence of a high quality of scholarship in the study of liturgy and is an effective leader of Christian Worship. The award is made possible by The Order of St. Luke, a religious order affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

Connor Morrison

The Henry E. and VeNita E. Fawcett Award in Pastoral Ministry

This award is given to the outstanding graduating senior who has demonstrated skills and personal commitment in pastoral ministry. The attributes that have been noted for the recipient of this award are as follows: skill in and a personal commitment to pastoral ministry, demonstrated potential in preaching, skill in personal relationships, a record indicating discipline and dedication to study, promise for major contributions to the life of the church and to the larger community, and a sense of humor. Henry and VeNita Fawcett contributed to this endowment. Dr. Fawcett served as pastor to students, director of the Native American Program, and professor of ministry from 1986 to 2003.

Sarah Cornell
Jessica Means

The Barbara Watson Smith Presbyterian Bible Content Award

The Barbara Watson Smith Presbyterian Bible Content Award is granted to the PCUSA student earning the highest passing score on the denomination's Bible Content Exam. Barbara Smith was a strong believer in the authority and inspiration of Scripture, and lived in prayerful and hopeful anticipation of the return of Christ and his coming kingdom. The award endowed in her name by her daughter Victoria Slemmons and Professor Timothy Slemmons is funded to the glory of God and in grateful memory of Barbara's life, love, faith, witness, and service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Benny Lane Thompson

The Newbigin Prize

Lesslie Newbigin (1909 to 1998) was a British missionary bishop in India, theologian, and ecumenical statesman who played a seminal role in calling the West to recognize its own culture as a critical and challenging missionary context. The Newbigin Prize is awarded to a graduating master of arts in mission and discipleship or master of divinity student who, in the judgement of the mission faculty, shows great promise to help the Christian church engage the pressing challenge of missionary engagement with the Western context through demonstrated gifts for contemporary cultural exegesis and leadership in innovative and faithful forms of contextualized Christian witness and community.

Jo Wiersema

The Logos Biblical Greek Award

This award is presented to a student who, in the judgment of the UDTS faculty, has demonstrated excellent proficiency and outstanding exegesis in Biblical Greek. It results from the annual gifts made by the class of 2023.

Amanda McDonald

The Davar Biblical Hebrew Award

This award is presented to a student who, in the judgment of the UDTS faculty, has demonstrated excellent proficiency and outstanding exegesis in Biblical Hebrew. It results from the annual gifts made by the class of 2023.

Stephanie Williams

HISTORY of *the* UNIVERSITY of DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary was founded in 1852 by Adrian Van Vliet to provide pastors for the settlers pouring into the Midwest during the latter half of the 19th century. In 1870 the seminary, then known as the German Theological School of the Northwest, was accepted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church as an official institution. Undergraduate studies were eventually added to provide a more solid foundation for ministerial studies. The reorganized institution was granted a charter as the Dubuque Presbyterian German College and Seminary in 1911. In 1920, a new charter was issued, renaming the school the University of Dubuque.

Over the years, the seminary has initiated a number of programs and agreements to serve the church. In 1964, the seminary joined Wartburg Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and Aquinas Institute of the Roman Catholic Church in an unprecedented threefold seminary consortium. This arrangement lasted until 1981 when Aquinas Institute moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

In the 1970s, the seminary initiated the Native American Program to train pastoral leaders for Native American communities across the nation. In 1998, the seminary began distance education of ruling elders for the Presbyterian Church and is now accredited to offer the master of divinity, the master of arts in ministry, master of arts in mission and discipleship, and the master of arts in reformed theology either fully or primarily online. Throughout the 2000's, the seminary has been one of the leading providers of online theological education within the mainline seminaries.

That innovative leadership continues. Over the last five years, the seminary has received more than \$4,250,000 in grant funding to create new programs that serve pastors and congregations in fresh and relevant ways.

The faculty, staff, and administration are committed to maintaining the tradition of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary of providing strong preparation for Christian leadership. Through teaching and scholarship in the classic theological disciplines, the faculty prepares women and men for faithful and effective service to Christ and the Church.

The ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The tradition of the academic procession and academic apparel goes back to the 14th century and the early days of the old European universities, when gowns and hoods were first required. Although European institutions continue to show great diversity in their specifications on academic apparel, current practices in the United States follow the code established by the American Council on Education.

Academic apparel indicates the most advanced degree held by the wearer. Gowns for bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees are distinguished by the variation in sleeve length; the hoods for these degrees, by their length, and by the width of the edging. The color of the edging of the hood indicates the subject of the degree (e.g. white for arts, scarlet for theology) and colors of the lining of the hood indicate the institution from which the degree was received; thus from the University of Dubuque the colors are blue and white. Apparel for the doctoral degree is distinguished by the panels on the sides of the hood, the gold tassel on the cap, and the velvet trimming on the gown.

The BAGPIPES

Bagpipes are a symbol of Scotland and the Presbyterian roots of the University; they represent the spiritual freedom we have received through Jesus Christ.

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE MISSION *and* VALUES

The University of Dubuque is a small, private university affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) offering undergraduate, graduate, and theological seminary programs. The University is comprised of individuals from the region, the nation, and the world.

As a community, the University practices its Christian commitments by educating students, pursuing excellence in scholarship, challenging students to live lives of worth and purpose, and preparing students for service to the church and the world.

Therefore, the University of Dubuque is committed to:

- A hospitable Christian environment which respects other faith traditions;
- Relationships which encourage intellectual, spiritual, and moral development;
- Excellence in academic inquiry and professional preparation;
- A diverse and equitable community where Christian love is practiced;
- Stewardship of all God's human and natural resources;
- Zeal for lifelong learning and service.

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

A Community after God's Heart:
Shaped by Faith in the One God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
We seek to follow Jesus,
Walk in the Spirit,
Join God's Mission.

We are a Christian seminary dedicated to forming God's people for servant leadership in ministry and mission:

- Gathering in gratitude and faithfulness, to be reformed according to the Word of God.
- Growing in the Church's biblical faith in the Triune God.
- Excelling in theological education and scholarship.
- Living as faithful stewards of God's Gifts.
- Engaging the changing needs of the Church and World.