

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE



MAY THE SECOND  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

9:30 A.M.

*Blades Chapel, Blades Hall*

*Dubuque, Iowa*

# *The* ORDER of EXERCISES

## **Prelude**

Charles J. Barland, DMA  
*University Organist and Professor of Music*

## **Processional\***

Derek Grant, *Bagpiper*  
Professor Charles J. Barland  
Emmy R. Gimple (MDiv'27), *Student Marshal, Moderator of the Student Association*  
Ryan H. Wolfer (MDiv'28), *Crucifer*

## **Welcome\***

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

## **Call to Worship\***

Mary Emily B. Duba, PhD  
*Associate Professor of Theology*

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 Mary Emily B. Duba

## **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.

*\* Please stand as you are able*

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.

### **Introduction of the Commencement Speaker**

Rev. Beth L. L. McCaw

### **New Testament Reading**

1 Peter 2:2-10

Rev. Bradley J. Longfield, PhD

*Professor of Church History*

### **Commencement Address**

"God's People"

Rev. Bradley J. Longfield

## AWARDING OF DEGREES IN COURSE

### **Acknowledgment of Award Recipients**

Rev. Beth L. L. McCaw

### **Board of Trustees Recognition**

Douglas J. Horstmann (C'75), MBA

*Chair, Board of Trustees*

### **Presentation of Candidates for Degrees**

Rev. Beth L. L. McCaw

### **Awarding of Degrees**

President Travis L. Frampton

### **Conferring of Hoods**

Timothy M. Slemmons, PhD

*Faculty Marshal and Professor of Homiletics and Worship*

### **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**

Lindsey Ward, EdD

*Director of Seminary Vocation*

## **Closing Prayer**

Matthew Schlimm, PhD  
*Professor of Old Testament*

## **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\***

Rev. Bradley J. Longfield

## **Recessional**

Professor Charles J. Barland

## **Platform Party**

Mary Emily B. Duba, PhD, *Associate Professor of Theology*  
Travis L. Frampton, PhD, *President of the University*  
Douglas J. Horstmann (C'75), MBA, *Chair, Board of Trustees*  
Rev. Bradley J. Longfield, PhD, *Professor of Church History*  
Rev. Beth L. L. McCaw, DMin, *Vice President of the University and Dean of the Seminary*  
Matthew Schlimm, PhD, *Professor of Old Testament*  
Rev. Timothy M. Slemmons, PhD, *Faculty Marshal and Professor of Homiletics and Worship*  
Lindsey Ward, EdD, *Director of Seminary Vocation*

*Immediately following the service, you are cordially invited to a reception in the Alumni Courtyard.*

*\* Please stand as you are able*

# SPRING 2026 COMMENCEMENT

## CERTIFICATE IN CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Jane Elizabeth Brounink Iddings	Torrington, WY
Charles M. Jones	Philadelphia, PA
Brenda Monroe Moten	Madison, WI
Traci Ruschetti	Butte, MT

## CERTIFICATE IN BIBLE AND MINISTRY

Valerie S. Behrens	Madison, WI
Karla Renee Garcia	Rockford, IL
Stephanie M. Harris	Madison, WI
Brenda Monroe Moten	Madison, WI
Carrie Sanders	Madison, WI
Melissa Schmidt	Fitchburg, WI

## MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Mark F. Bidlake	Plainfield, IL
Emily Jane McCreery	North Platte, NE
Allison Louise Harper Sack	Bremerton, WA

## MASTER OF ARTS IN REFORMED THEOLOGY

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

Cesar Gerardo Carhuachin*	Charlotte, NC
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*The Life and Thought of Ulrich Zwingli, 1519-1521*

Andrew Mason Goins	Banner Elk, NC
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*A World Charged with God's Glory: The Impossibility and Perimeters of Reading the Book of Creation in Calvin's Theology*

\* December 2025 Graduate

\*\* August 2026 Graduate



# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rev. Bradley J. Longfield, PhD  
*Professor of Church History*

"God's People"



Bradley J. Longfield, PhD, professor of church history, was called to the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 1992 and will step down from his position this summer. In addition to his service as a member of the faculty, Longfield served as vice president of the university and dean of the seminary from 1998 to 2016. Prior to coming to UDTs, he served as a pastor and taught at Duke Divinity School. A minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he regularly preaches and teaches in congregations.

Longfield earned a bachelor of arts, *magna cum laude*, from Wesleyan University, a master of divinity, *cum laude*, from Yale Divinity School, and the doctor of philosophy in history of Christianity from Duke University. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was a James B. Duke Fellow, and received the William L. Lomax Teaching and Advising Award from the University of Dubuque.

Longfield is the author of the award-winning book, *The Presbyterian Controversy: Fundamentalists, Modernists, and Moderates*. He has also written *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History* and co-edited *The Secularization of the Academy*. Longfield has authored numerous chapters of books and articles and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Presbyterian History*.

Perhaps most noteworthy, Longfield has taught hundreds of students in lay, master's, and doctoral programs. He has a reputation as an excellent lecturer and seminar leader who seeks to nurture a critical appreciation of the Christian tradition and a love for Christ and the Church in his students. He and his wife, Linda, have been blessed with three 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.

William Storm

## **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: Scott Trauger  
Second: Emily McCreery  
Third: Cade Arnold

## **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.

Daniel Gorenberg

## **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.

Alissa Brown  
Ryan Wolfer

## **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 Grace Point Community Church in Dubuque.

Brian Mitchell

### **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.

Emmanuel Akrong

### **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.

Annie Walker

### **The Donald G. Bloesch Theology Endowed Award**

Awarded annually to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the history/theology division 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 from 1957 to 1992.

Natasha Leader

### **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 Mr. Plato E. Sargent, a dedicated church elder and attorney.

Junior: Landon Rohrer  
Middler: Melissa Schmidt

### **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.

Mitchell Richards

### **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.

Andrew Goins

### **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.

Benny Lane Thompson

### **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.

Brian Mitchell

### **Alberta Swanson Prize Essay Award**

This prize is awarded for an essay in history or theology. Winning essays must be original and of publishable length and quality. The faculty of the history/theology division evaluates each essay and selects the recipient. The Award is made possible by an endowment given by the First Presbyterian Church of Davenport, Iowa, in honor of Alberta Swanson.

Cesar Carhuachin

### **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 judgment 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.

Natasha Leader

### **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.

Jeffery Buck

### **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.

Lynnette Berkhimer

## **Charles Robert Meyer Award**

This award is given in memory of the Rev. Charles Robert Meyer (MDiv'65). This award is presented to a graduating senior who exemplifies and models incarnational ministry by demonstrating the gospel in local community outreach. From Ohio, the Rev. Meyer served churches in Pennsylvania, in Vietnam as a U.S. Army Chaplain, and in West Virginia before returning home to Ohio. There, he served his home church and was given the title of pastor emeritus by the Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.

Airrick Lee

# HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The University of Dubuque Theological Seminary was founded in 1852 by Adrian Van Vliet in order to provide pastors for the settlers pouring into the Midwest during the latter half of the nineteenth 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.