

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE



APRIL THE TWENTY-SIXTH
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

9:30 A.M.

Blades Chapel, Blades Hall

Dubuque, Iowa

The ORDER of EXERCISES

Prelude

Charles Barland, DMA
University Organist and Professor of Music

Processional*

Derek Grant, *Bagpiper*
Professor Charles Barland
Joshua Clapp (MDiv'25), *Student Marshal, Moderator of the Student Association*
Amanda McDonald (MDiv'26), *Crucifer*

Welcome*

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

Call to Worship*

Rev. Timothy M. Slemmons, PhD
Professor of Homiletics and Worship

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*

Rev. Timothy M. Slemmons

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

New Testament Reading

Mark 10:13-16
Travis L. Frampton, PhD
President of the University

Commencement Address

"Go Forth and Put on Your Garment"
President Travis L. Frampton

AWARDING OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Acknowledgment of Award Recipients

Rev. Beth McCaw

Board of Trustees Recognition

Douglas J. Horstmann (C'75), MBA
Chair, Board of Trustees

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Rev. Beth McCaw

Awarding of Degrees

President Travis L. Frampton

Conferring of Hoods

Rev. Bradley Longfield

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

Nicholas Elder, PhD
Associate Professor of New Testament

Closing Prayer

Rev. Susan Forshey, PhD
Associate Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation

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. Beth McCaw

Recessional

Professor Charles Barland

Platform Party

Nicholas Elder, PhD, *Associate Professor of New Testament*
Rev. Susan Forshey, PhD, *Associate Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation*
Travis L. Frampton, PhD, *President of the University*
Douglas J. Horstmann (C'75), MBA, *Chair, 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*
Rev. Timothy M. Slemmons, PhD, *Professor of Homiletics and Worship*

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

**Please stand as you are able*

SPRING 2025 COMMENCEMENT

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

William Joseph Beck	Rapid City, SD
Cindy Bremmer	Muscoda, WI
Melissa Lynn Schmidt	Fitchburg, WI

MASTER OF ARTS IN MINISTRY

Laura Campbell Purtle	Spring Hill, TN
Kristen Leigh Schoonover	Effingham, IL

MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

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

Linda T. Adkins**	Wake Forest, NC
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Loving Our Neighbors: Finding Hope for the Church in Relationships with Refugees and Community Partners

Erin Elizabeth Kerr	Charleston, SC
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Receiving a Kingdom 'Not of this World'

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Bridgett Roshawn Boone	Savanna, IL
Joshua Shane Clapp	San Antonio, TX
David P. Conde	Fairbury, NE
Nancy Noemi Diaz	Houston, TX
Faith Christine Herout	Nora Springs, IA
Rebecca Crow Lister**	Lebanon, PA
Devyn B. Nelson	Fort Dodge, IA
Conor D. Peters	Nokomis, FL
Debra L. Tyler*	West Cornwall, CT
Stephanie W. Williams	Fort Worth, TX

* August 2024 Graduate

** December 2024 Graduate

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

(The title of the student's doctoral project is listed below their name)

Jay Edward Cline Clarinda, IA
Using Lectio Divina as a Tool for Congregational Spiritual Formation

Michael Janes Ankeny, IA
Contextual Application of the Trinitarian Participatory Vision for Ministry

Bonnie Kay Koeppen Belle Plaine, IA
The Journey from Surviving to Thriving in Life and Ministry; Revitalizing the Church and its Mission

David Orin Leistra Sturgeon Bay, WI
Ministry Late in Career and into Retirement: Insight into Pastoral Ministry Through a Participatory Trinitarian Lens

Timothy John Mitchell Dixon, IL
The Integrated Holistic Visioning Process

Jason Colin Moore Camp Lejeune, NC
(Re)Formation: How God uses the Ancient Spiritual Disciplines of Sabbath and Hospitality to Reorder our Lives and Equip us to be Faithful Disciples

Bernard K. Nti Johnstown, PA
Exploring the Liturgy as a Tool for Christian Discipleship and Practice: Using Westmont Presbyterian Church as a Case Study

Adam Eugene Shourds Bowling Green, KY
A Trinitarian, Participatory Approach to Clergy, Congregational, and Missional Flourishing

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Travis L. Frampton, PhD
President of the University of Dubuque

"Go Forth and Put on Your Garment"



Travis L. Frampton is the 12th president of the University of Dubuque (UD) in Dubuque, Iowa. His first day in office was June 1, 2024. Before being elected as president of UD, he served for five years as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Schreiner University (SU) in Kerrville, Texas. He came to SU in 2019 from Hardin-Simmons University (HSU) in Abilene, Texas, where he was vice president for University Mission and Strategic Vision and professor of religion. Previously, he held positions of associate provost, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) liaison, and master of arts in religion program director.

Frampton earned a bachelor of arts in religion from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, a master of arts in religion from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut, and a dual doctor of philosophy degree in philosophy and religion from Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam (philosophy) in the Netherlands and Baylor University (religion) in Waco, Texas.

As provost and vice president for academic affairs at SU, Frampton created a new academic learning ecosystem for the campus, implemented new academic programs, designed relevant and innovative academic majors, developed mission-critical co-curricular programs, consistently maintained a balanced budget and created ways to improve efficiency, established graduate school pipelines for undergraduates, added resources to increase support for faculty development, and more.

Frampton and First Lady Tonya have three children, Blake, Benjamin, and Brody.

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.

Joshua Gilhart

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: Emmy Gimple

Second: Emmanuel Akrong

Third: Bridgett Boone

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.

Devyn Nelson

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.

James Baty

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 Church in Dubuque.

Bridgett Boone

Nancy Diaz

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.

Joseph Leggett
Devyn Nelson

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.

Ezrah Schmeelk

The Donald G. Bloesch Theology Endowed Award

Awarded annually to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the history and 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 at UDTs from 1957 to 1992.

Rebecca Lister

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: Amy Kosari
Middler: Natasha Leader

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 judgment of the history and theology faculty, has demonstrated scholarly excellence in theology.

Natasha Leader

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.

James Baty

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.

Natasha Leader

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.

Rebecca Lister
Stephanie Williams

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 she 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.

Jeffery Buck

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 and 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.

Philip Beisswenger

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.

Linda Adkins

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 Fuls

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.

Daniel Gorenberg

Charles Robert Meyer Award

This award is given in memory of 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, 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.

David Conde

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 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.