

UNIVERSITY *of* DUBUQUE
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
COMMENCEMENT SERVICE



APRIL THE TWENTY-NINTH
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

9:30 A.M.

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

The ORDER of EXERCISES

Prelude

Ken Kilian Brass Quartet

Processional*

Derek Grant, *Bagpiper*

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

Nathaniel Asperger (MDiv'23), *Student Marshal, Moderator of the Student Association*

Amy Cerniglia (MDiv'24), *Crucifer, Co-Moderator of the Student Association*

Welcome*

Rev. Jeffrey F. Bullock, PhD

President of the University

Call to Worship*

Rev. Susan Forshey, PhD

Associate Professor of Discipleship and Christian Formation

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. Susan Forshey

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 if you are able*

Introduction of the Commencement Speaker

Rev. Christopher James, PhD
Associate Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:1-12
Rev. David Rohrer, MDiv
Pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bothell, Washington

Commencement Address

"Passing the Dimly Burning Wick"
Rev. David Rohrer

AWARDING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Presentation of the Candidate

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

Citation and Petition of Honorary Degree

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Conferral of Honorary Degree

Joseph A. Chlapaty, DHL
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Presentation of Doctoral Hood

Vice President Mark D. Ward

AWARDING OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Acknowledgment of Award Recipients

Vice President Mark D. Ward

Board of Trustees Recognition

Chairman Joseph A. Chlapaty

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

Vice President Mark D. Ward

Awarding of Degrees

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Conferring of Hoods

Rev. Bradley Longfield, PhD
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

Rev. Beth McCaw, DMin
Associate Professor of Ministry

Closing Prayer

Rev. 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.

** Please stand if you are able*

Benediction*

President Jeffrey F. Bullock

Recessional

Ken Kilian Brass Quartet

Platform Party

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

Joseph A. Chlapaty, DHL, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

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

Rev. Christopher James, PhD, *Associate Professor of Evangelism and Missional Christianity*

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

Rev. Beth McCaw, DMin, *Associate Professor of Ministry*

Rev. David Rohrer, MDiv, *Pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church*

Rev. Matthew Schlimm, PhD, *Professor of Old Testament*

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 if you are able*

SPRING 2023 COMMENCEMENT

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP FOR COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

Josphat M. Ombacho
Philip A. Thompson

Aurora, CO
Machesney Park, IL

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Kwadwo Dabo Acheampong*
Sarah Jean Boatright
Shannon Joshi*
Jerie Messer Lukefahr
Tara Jo Mitchell*

Asonomaso, Ghana
Colorado Springs, CO
Eau Claire, WI
Fernandina Beach, FL
Concord, OH

MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSION AND DISCIPLESHIP

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

Bridgett Roshawn Boone
Hope and Future: How Churches and Families Can Love and Launch Foster Teens

Savanna, IL

William J. Griffin
Forming Multiracial PCUSA New Worshipping Communities

Savannah, GA

Miranda Elizabeth Nikkel
So, What About the Singles? How Church Ministry Leaders Can Better Foster Community with Their Early Adult Singles Population

Sully, IA

Peter Okyere*
Doing Evangelism in the Digital Space

Columbus, OH

Christina Rees-Fletcher*
Authentic Ministry Among Younger Hypermobile Urban Millennials

Indianapolis, IN

* December 2022 Graduate

** *nunc pro tunc* (needs 5 or less credits)

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Nathaniel A. Asperger	Midland, MI
Mechille Sue Boldt	Floyd, IA
Mackenzie Brister	Dubuque, IA
Aaron Jay Carpenter**	Iowa City, IA
Keris Dahlkamp*	Canyon, CA
Heidi L. Farmer	Tiffin, OH
Brobbey Gyening	Smyrna, DE
Christina Marie Kestner	Moundsville, WV
Clayton Leon LaPosta II**	Washington, PA
Karolee Rafferty Larson	Butte, MT
Jessica Kitchens Lewis**	Maryville, TN
Lynn W. Miller	Orrtanna, PA
Danielle Lyn Postma	Dubuque, IA
Katherine Wareing Rives*	Tangerine, FL
Gina Marie Struensee	Menasha, WI
Sharon Tatum Gray	Orlando, FL
Carmen Torman	Orlando, FL

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

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

Craig Richard Alwin <i>Becoming a Local Theologian</i>	Oconto, WI
Spencer S. Homan <i>A Holistic Incarnational Trinitarian Model for Church Revitalization</i>	Grand Forks, ND
Katina D. Sharp <i>He, She, They, ZE: How Pronoun Usage Impacts the Ministry of the Church</i>	Knoxville, TN
Paul Wayne Snyder <i>Reclaiming the Early Church as a Leadership Model of Mentorship and Collaborative Ministry</i>	Ashby, MN
Rocky Supinger <i>One-to-Ones, Congregational Vitality and Revelation: Community Organizing Strategy for Ministry</i>	Chicago, IL

* December 2022 Graduate

** *nunc pro tunc* (needs 5 or less credits)

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Rev. David Rohrer, MDiv
*Pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bothell, Washington*

"Passing the Dimly Burning Wick"



Rev. David Rohrer, MDiv, is a native of Southern California. He graduated with a bachelor of arts in political science from UCLA in 1979 and with a master of divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, in 1982. That same year, he was ordained as a minister of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). He has served in four congregations in California and Washington and is currently pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Bothell, Washington.

He and Mary Ann, his wife, who is a retired school nurse, birth doula, and childbirth educator, have been married since 1986 and work together as volunteer puppy raisers for Guide Dogs for the Blind. They have two adult children. Their son, Justin, and Natasha, his wife, live in Seattle. Their daughter, Laura, is also a Seattle resident. Dave is the author of *The Sacred Wilderness of Pastoral Ministry: Preparing a People for the Presence of the Lord* (IVP 2012) and also works with newly ordained pastors who are recent graduates of UDTs through the Pastor as Disciple initiative that is a part of the Lilly Thriving in Ministry Grant.

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.

Amy Cerniglia

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

Second: Jessica Lewis

Third: Katherine Rives

The Bastian Endowed Award

Awarded annually to graduating seniors who have 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.

Lynn Miller

Katherine Rives

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

Awarded to seminary students who demonstrate 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 a Presbyterian Church denomination staff.

Bridgett Boone

Miranda Nikkel

SEMINARY AWARDS

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 Third Presbyterian Church in Dubuque.

Mackenzie Brister

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 at UDTS from 1976 to 1994.

Karolee Larson

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.

Melanie Williams

The Donald G. Bloesch Theology Endowed Award

Awarded annually to the graduating senior who, in the judgement 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.

Karolee Larson

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.

Junior: Linda Adkins

Middler: Rebecca Lister

SEMINARY AWARDS

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 of divinity middler student who, in the judgment of the history and theology faculty, has demonstrated scholarly excellence in theology.

Melanie Williams

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.

Devyn Nelson

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

This award is presented to graduating seniors who plan 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 at UDTs from 1959 to 1996.

Lorna Blackford

Jessica Means

The Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship and Practice

Awarded to a 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.

Nathaniel Ferguson

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

This award is given to an 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 have contributed to this endowment. Dr. Fawcett served as pastor to students, director of the Native American Program, and professor of ministry at UDTs from 1986 to 2003.

Karolee Larson

SEMINARY AWARDS

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.

Chance Snell

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.

William Griffin Jr.

The Herbert E. Manning Jr. Distinctive Service Award

This award recognizes UDTS alumni who demonstrate exceptional contributions in Christian ministry. Recipients model servant leadership, courageous convictions, a spirit of witness, and a faithful obedience as they contribute significantly to the Church Universal, and all of God's people.

Rev. Paul C. Meyers, DMin

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 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.

In the recent past, the seminary has initiated several 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, master of arts in Christian leadership, and master of arts in mission and discipleship primarily online. Throughout the 2000's, the seminary has been one of the leading providers of online theological education within mainline denominations.

That innovative leadership continues. Over the last five years, the seminary has received more than \$2,000,000 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.