Nazarene Theological Seminary

77th Commencement Ceremony

Class of 2023

April 29, 2023, 2:00 PM
Olathe College Church of the Nazarene
ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude

Kathy Smith

Processional (Congregation Standing)
Pomp & Circumstance by Edward Elgar

Greeting

Dr. Jeren Rowell

Welcome & Invocation

Dr. Sarah Coleson-Derck

Scripture Reading

Dr. Jenny Matheny

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Jeren Rowell

Commencement Address

My Three-Verbed Vestibule

Dr. Morris Weigelt

Congregational Hymn

Rev. Tim McPherson

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (Hymn #507)

Hooding of Master of Arts Candidates

Hooding of Master of Divinity Candidates

Congregational Hymn

Rev. Tim McPherson

And Can It Be? (Hymn #225)

Hooding of Doctor of Ministry Candidates

Conferral of Degrees, Diplomas, & Certificates

Dr. Jeren Rowell

Litany (see next page)

Dr. Dana Preusch

Benediction

Dr. Jeren Rowell

Light refreshments are available for all graduates and guests in Vanderpool Lobby, as you exit to the parking lot.
Minister: We come now with thankful hearts, O Lord, to offer our prayers in celebration of your loving kindness to our Seminary to the present.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: And we come with hopeful hearts to offer our prayers in anticipation of your gracious guidance and blessing on our Seminary in future years.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Minister: We praise you, O God, for gifting your Church with a vision for a learned ministry, who by your gracious Spirit might raise up a wise people.

People: We praise you, O God, and give you humble thanks.

Minister: We praise you, O God, for so graciously calling such choice servants of yours to join in fulfilling that vision – to teach and to administer.

People: We praise you, O God, and give you humble thanks.

Minister: We thank you, O Lord, for those who have faithfully prayed for your work here; and for those who have given of their material means in support.

People: We praise you, O God, and give you humble thanks.

Minister: We thank you, O Lord, for your manifest blessing upon our work here. We see it everywhere in your world in the faithful work of servants educated here – pastors, evangelists, teachers, missionaries, and administrators.

People: We praise you, O God, and give you humble thanks.

Minister: O Lord, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we do confess that sometimes our wisdom has been flawed; our vision has been impaired; and our prejudices have beclouded our faith.

People: Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Minister: So it is, merciful Lord, that we ask forgiveness and the continuing presence of your Holy Spirit, that your wisdom may be ours; that your yearning may be our vision; your love our very life itself.

People: Hear us, your children, O Lord.

Minister: O Lord, Giver of the Holy Spirit, we look now to the future, to that work to which you shall call us and our successors until your Son returns to make all things new.

People: Hear us, your children, O Lord.

Minister: We know nothing of that future, O Lord, except your call to continue our ministry and your promises: “Greater are you within us than he that is in the world;” and “Lo, you will be with us, even to the end of the age.”

People: “Greater are you within us than he that is in the world;” “Lo you will be with us, even to the end of the age.” Hallelujah.

Minister: So we offer ourselves, we offer our school to you, to love and to serve you with all of our heart and soul, mind and strength.

People: And to love and serve our neighbor as our self, O Lord.

Minister: Gracious Lord, grant grace that Nazarene Theological Seminary shall heed no voice but yours; have no vision but your face; speak no word but your salvation; have no mission but that of reconciling humankind to yourself; have no Lord but you alone.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, through Jesus Christ, who is become our Wisdom – our Righteousness, our Holiness, our Redemption and our Coming King. Amen.

- Dr. Paul M. Bassett, Professor Emeritus of the History of Christianity
Commencement Address: “My Three Verbed Vestibule”

Theme Sentence: “Insights into God’s Word obediently translated into action become the VESTIBULE for richer insights and deeper intimacy with our Lord!”

Dr. Morris A. Weigelt taught New Testament at NTS from 1975 until his retirement in 2001. Now he serves as research assistant to his son, Gerhard, who is pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene in Mason, MI. Dr. Weigelt has earned degrees from Northwest Nazarene College (B.A. & M.A.), Nazarene Theological Seminary (B.D.—graduating in the 13th class at NTS); and Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M. & Ph.D.—New Testament). He was pastor of First Church of the Nazarene in Danbury, CT from 1960-1963. He taught in the religion department at Northwest Nazarene College from 1965-1975.

Dr. Weigelt served the International Church of the Nazarene through membership on the General NWMS (now NMI) Council, the Word Action Adult Curriculum Committee, and the committee creating the Article of Faith on “The Church”. He has preached in local churches, pastor and spouse’s retreats (including PALCON and WILCON), camp meetings, and missionary workshops. He has written for church periodicals such as “Herald of Holiness” (now “Holiness Today”) and “Illustrated Bible Life”, and contributed individual chapters in several books. His primary publications include editing H. Orton Wiley’s Hebrews for reissue; serving on the team that wrote The Upward Call: Spiritual Formation and The Holy Life (now translated into several other languages) and Living the Lord’s Prayer: The Heart of Spiritual Formation (in collaboration with E. Dee Freeborn).

During his years on the faculty at NTS he participated in the original design of the D.Min. program, the introduction of Spiritual Formation and Hermeneutics into the curriculum, and the redesign of the final evaluation procedures for the M. Div. program.

He and his wife, Eula-Adine, reside in Mason, MI and enjoy interacting with their four children, Marva, Faye Anne, LaDeana, and Gerhard, their 10 grandchildren (one short-circuited to heaven), and three great-grandsons.
CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Lori L. Buckle**
Daniel Buckwalter (in absentia)
Allan S. Mendez*
Ashley Phillips

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Kasey Johnson***
Susan Musangi Ndolo*
Andy Rubin*
Chris Sommers* (in absentia)

CANDIDATES FOR THE MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

T. Renee Albracht**
Mitchell K. Birnel*
Jasmine Monique Brenneman*
Martha Jane Cain*
Dustin Ryan Dimitri
William I. Dulworth***
Brian Franks**
Christopher J. Fuller*
Rebekah Hay (in absentia)
Marie Louise Gregg° **
Christian Michael Johnson° *
Gabriel A. Marquez***
Clifford Sherrill Michael*
Edward Kwame Solano Johnson*
John M. Wakefield***
Nicholas Scott Walker° *

(Italics indicate summer 2023 graduate)

Latin Honors:
* cum laude (3.5 GPA)
** magna cum laude (3.8 GPA)
*** summa cum laude (4.0 GPA)

° Validated Course of Study for Nazarene Ordination as Elder
CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS
In 1993, Nazarene Theological Seminary created a constellation of certificate and diploma programs to complement its established masters programs. These non-degree programs address specialized needs for ministry preparation. The purposes of the certificates and diplomas are to place a substantial measure of graduate theological education within the reach of qualified persons who cannot pursue one of the masters degrees, and to provide

CERTIFICATE IN CHAPLAINCY MINISTRY
T. Renee Albracht
Martha Jean Cain
Clifford Sherrill Michael
Brian Franks

CERTIFICATE IN CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY
Edward Kwame Solano Johnson

CERTIFICATE IN OLD TESTAMENT
Brian Franks

CERTIFICATE IN CHURCH HISTORY
Brian Franks
Daniel Buckwalter

STUDENTS ASSISTING IN TODAY’S CEREMONY

Marshals: David Luna & Deborah Mitchell

The marshals are selected by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty on the basis of their superior academic record, and are more than halfway through their degree program at NTS.
CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE

James A. Abrams
Dissertation Title — Toward a Lifelong Discipleship: A Model of Congregational Youth Ministry for the South Weymouth Church of the Nazarene

Estela Irene Chao-Reza
Dissertation Title — Addressing Racism in the Church: Moving Towards Antiracism and Restorative Justice

Sylvia Cortez Masyuk
Dissertation Title — Ukraine, Trauma, & Eucharistic Hope

Joseph Donahue
Dissertation Title — Congregational Partnership: Towards a Healthy Ecclesiology for Bivocational Ministry

Nickolas D. Gebhart
Dissertation Title — The Encounterable Christ Today: Recapturing and Reimagining Discipleship to Become the Church the World Needs

Joshua Wood Jorgensen
Dissertation Title — The Multiethnic Mindset and the Beloved Community: Addressing the Influence of Race and Racism on the Church

Jose A. Matamoros Mora
Dissertation Title — The Gospel of the Kingdom Across Cultures and Across Borders: A Latin American Theological and Missional Perspective to the Migrant

Andra Lauren Neely
Dissertation Title — The Ars Moriendi For Churches: A Way Forward for Dying Congregations

Brent Daniel Neely
Dissertation Title — Christo Omnimo Nihil Præponant: Preferring Nothing to Christ in the Local Church — A Monastic Approach to Spiritual Formation

Kason Lee Oakes
Dissertation Title — Parishing Podunk: Reimagining Circuit Riding Ministry in the Rural Context

Tiffany Gina Ross
Dissertation Title — Discovering God: Wesleyan Spiritual Formation in an Intergenerational Camping Context

Brian C. Schafer
Dissertation Title — Unity Because of Diversity: A Strategy of Discipleship into the Way of the Triune God for Gaithersburg Church of the Nazarene
Candidates for the Doctor of Ministry Degree, Cont.

Dean A. Shaw

Ramón Sierra
Dissertation Title — Pastores de la Iglesia del Nazareno en Puerto Rico Enfocados en Formar Discípulos y Desde la Perspectiva Wesleyana

Geoffrey Alastair Smith
Dissertation Title — The Tale of Two Cities: Neighboring Cities Separated by Economic Boundaries but Joined by Spiritual Poverty Towards Kingdom Mission Transformation of the Streets

Dale Allen Stoops
Dissertation Title — Consumer Culture and the Free Church Tradition: Addressing the Problems of Consumerism through a Eucharistic Ecclesiology

Matthew Allen Taylor
Dissertation Title — Practices for Missional Holiness: Activating a Suburban Congregation in Their Community

Vina Jean Thomas
Dissertation Title — Finding God in the Midst of Motherhood: Mothering in the Bible, History, and Today

Austin Jack Troyer
Dissertation Title — Circles of Care: Decentralizing Pastoral Care Through Small Group Ministry

Karen M. VanGilder
Dissertation Title — Being Single in the Family of God: Seeing Beauty in Singleness

Stuart Norman Williams
Dissertation Title — The Intercultural Congregation: Thinking, Living, and Loving Diversity Within the Local Church

Steven Eric Wingate
Dissertation Title — Fostering Healthy Outcomes for Covocationally Led Communities of Faith in the Church of the Nazarene, USA/Canada Region, Through Updating Educational Opportunities

Ronald Lee Young, II
Dissertation Title — A Cultural Shift to Facilitate a Rediscovery of Authentic Christian Faith for Millennials and Gen Z at Crossroads Community Church of the Nazarene
2023 HUGH C. BENNER
PREACHERS' CONFERENCE
September 26-27, 2023

#PREACH23

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NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

General Assembly

NTS Alumni and Friends Breakfast
Sunday, June 11th at 7:30 am

15% OFF A ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION | SCAN QR CODE

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- Access to NTS’s William Broadhurst Library
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PRAXIS
BRIDGING THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
Degree Programs at NTS

Master of Arts [Theological Studies]
The MA(TS) degree is designed for people who desire narrowed focus in the major theological disciplines to deepen their understanding of Christian faith. Students may focus on specialized knowledge in a chosen area of study or hone research and writing skills.

Master of Arts in Transformational Leadership
The MATL degree provides students a ministry lens through which to view and live out their vocation. It is designed to help students purposefully integrate their faith and work whether they sense a call to be a teacher, administrator, musician, artist, entrepreneur, nurse, or other profession. The MATL integrates the theological disciplines, contextual leadership, and specialized courses to help students become an intentionally Christian leader in their chosen field.

Master of Divinity
The MDiv is the central degree program at NTS. Its purpose is to prepare persons for pastoral and spiritual leadership in congregations and other settings by providing opportunities for the integration of theological study, personal and professional spiritual formation and the practice of ministry in congregation, community, and cross-cultural settings. It is the normative degree for those seeking ordination.

Doctor of Ministry
The DMin is an advanced, professional theological degree for ministerial leaders. It is designed for educated and experienced practitioners to explore advanced integration of theory and practice. Three tracks are offered: Black Leadership & Ministry, Spiritual Formation & Discipleship, and Preaching.

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