



United Theological Seminary

2026 Commencement

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER | DAYTON, OHIO

Please turn off all cell phones and other devices
that may disturb the ability of others to participate prayerfully in the liturgy.
The asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand for that portion of the liturgy.

PRELUDE

Oakwood Brass

***THE ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL**

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Rev. Kimberly L. Hamby, Director of Worship

LEADER: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

The risen Christ is with us.

Praise be to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Amen!

***HYMN**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!

**All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near;
join me in glad adoration!**

Verse 2

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigning
bears thee on eagle's wings, e're in his keeping maintaining.**

**God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.
Hast thou not known his sustaining?**

Verse 3

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee**

Verse 4

**Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee,
fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.**

**Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,
spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.**

Verse 5

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.

**Let the amen sound from his people again;
gladly forever adore him**

***OPENING COLLECT**

Dr. Elvin Sadler,
Associate Dean for the Doctor of Ministry Program

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have delivered us from the dominion of sin and death and brought us into the kingdom of your Son. We pray that, as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his love he may raise us to eternal joys; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

Dr. Kent Millard, President

AWARDING OF HONORARY DOCTORATE

Dr. Wendy Deichmann, Interim Academic Dean

Honoring | Dr. Kent Millard
President, United Theological Seminary

Honoring | Dr. James Holsinger
Chair of the Board of Trustees
United Theological Seminary

Honoring | Dr. Cinda Swan
First Vice Chair, Board of Trustees,
United Theological Seminary

LESSON FOR THE DAY

Matthew 13:54-58

Rev. Rachelle Epperson, Master's Graduate

INTRODUCTION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. James Holsinger

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Expect a Miracle

Dr. Kent Millard

INTRODUCTION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT, DR. MARK TEASDALE

Dr. Kent Millard

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

STUDENT AWARDS

Dr. Wendy Deichmann, Interim Academic Dean
Dr. Andrew Park, Professor of Theology and Ethics

The William and Carolyn Anderson Applied Theology Competition | Matthew Brooks and Justin Flint

This award is given for a paper submitted in competition that demonstrates a student's ability to think critically on theological issues he or she applies to contemporary social concerns. It is given through the generosity of Dr. William and Carolyn Anderson.

The Ruth Pippert Core Memorial Award | Gregory Chiaboluo Udeonyia

Perpetuating Ruth Pippert Core's lifelong interest in peace, unity, and the arts, Professor Emeritus Arthur C. Core established this award to provide enrichment in the arts, ecumenics, and aid to exchange students.

The Robert E. and Mary Elizabeth Cramer Award | Lorryn Macie Holstein

The Robert E. and Mary Elizabeth Cramer Award is given each year to an outstanding student who has completed two thirds of the required semester hours for their degree to recognize and encourage academic achievement.

The Robert M. Daugherty Award | Erik Sollenberger

The Robert M. Daugherty Award is given to a graduating senior who has demonstrated exceptional promise for pastoral ministry.

The Harry L. Eckels Award | Kenya Ellis

The Harry L. Eckels Award is given each year to a person who has completed at least two-thirds of the required semester hours for their degree and who demonstrates stewardship of time, talent, and money.

The Fellowship Seminarian Award | Theodore Karreem Powell

This award is given for outstanding leadership in music and/or worship arts.

The Hoyt Hickman Award | Myungchul Song

The Hoyt Hickman Award for Outstanding Liturgical Scholarship and Practice is awarded by The Order of Saint Luke. The award is given to the graduating student who, in the judgment of the selection committee, both (1) has given evidence of a high quality of scholarship in the study of liturgy, and (2) is an effective leader of Christian worship.

The Missionary Interpretation Award | Natalie Morey

The Missionary Interpretation Award is given each year to assist a student in interpreting to the American Church its worldwide Christian responsibility. The award is made possible by an endowment established by the Youth Fellowship of the Memorial United Methodist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland.

The Kendall McCabe Award in Preaching | Edward Gebhart

The McCabe Award in Preaching is given each year to a senior student in the master's programs. The awardee will demonstrate in a submitted sermon exegetical skill in interpreting the text and an awareness of the liturgical, congregational, and missional context of the homiletical occasion. The award-winning sermon will serve as an exemplar of preaching as a liturgical act.

The Dr. Won Byung Roh Award | Kaitlyn Jackson

This award for excellence in pastoral care-giving is given to a student who demonstrates outstanding scholarship and practice in the field of Pastoral Care-Giving and has completed two-thirds of the required semester hours for their degree.

The Dr. Hervin U. Roop Award | Paula Thomas

Through the generosity of the late Hervin U. Roop, former president of Lebanon Valley College, an award is given to recognize and encourage students in the leadership of worship and the public reading of Scriptures.

The August Thomas Memorial Award | Deanna York

The August Thomas Memorial Award is given to a student who shows special promise in church administration.

The Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel Award | Everlyne Kukah

The Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel Award is presented annually to the student who shows special promise in ecumenical and social justice ministries. The award is made possible by a gift from the New York West Area of The United Methodist Church in recognition of Bishop Yeakel's twelve years of distinguished episcopal leadership in that area.

The Dr. Kenneth H. Pohly Award | Erik Wilson and Vanessa McQueen

The Dr. Kenneth H. Pohly Scholarship is given to a student who has completed at least one year of seminary education and shows an exceptional promise in leadership for the local church.

DMin Outstanding Project in Church Renewal | Giil Lee

The DMin Outstanding Project on Church Renewal award is given each year to a Doctor of Ministry student with an outstanding project in church renewal.

Project: *Fostering a Vibrant Church Community Through Spiritual Inter-Connectivity in Small Groups*

Mentors: Bishop Young Jin Cho and Dr. Sungho Lee

DMin Outstanding Project in Justice and Mercy | Stephanie R. Ball

The DMin Outstanding Project in Justice and Mercy award is given each year to a Doctor of Ministry student with an outstanding project in justice and mercy.

Project: *Empowering Congregations to Eradicate Biases Toward Leaders with Disabilities*

Mentor: Drs. Anita Coleman and Jonathan McReynolds

DMin Outstanding Project in Proclamation of the Gospel | Jennye Jenkins

The DMin Outstanding Project in Proclamation of the Gospel award is given each year to a Doctor of Ministry student with an outstanding project in proclamation of the Gospel.

Project: *An Anthropology of Chaplaincy*

Mentors: Drs. Anita Coleman and Jonathan McReynolds

ALUMNI/AE AWARDS

Dr. Kent Millard, President

Effective Ministry Award | Rev. Dr. Tracey Fletcher Allen, '23

Beginning in 1976, United's Alumni/ae Association began awarding the Effective Ministry Award to one of its alumni/ae. This award is given to a person who has developed outstanding new or unique ministries, who is engaged in a particular local expression of ministry and witness, or who serves in challenging areas of ministry defined by characteristics such as geographic region or cross-cultural appointments

Distinguished Alumnus Award | Rev. Dr. Jonathan McReynolds, '12, '15

Established in the mid-1980s, the Distinguished Alumnus/a Award honors those who have obtained denominational, ecumenical or professional distinction.

Outstanding Doctoral Alumna Award | Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold, '23

Established in 2012, this award honors those who have developed an outstanding program or ministry outreach as a result of effective work in one of United's doctoral programs.

AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES

Dr. Kent Millard, President

Mrs. Elaine Hawley,
Director of Houses of Study
and Certificate Programs

CERTIFICATE IN SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- Jennifer Clauser
- Shannon D. Larche
- Zabdi Olivera
- Juan Luis Rodríguez Chalco
- Bobbi Sue Smith

CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

- Joseph L. Summers

THE AWARDING OF ACADEMIC DEGREES

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Kent Millard, President
Dr. Wendy Deichmann, Interim Academic Dean
Dr. Andrew Park, Professor of Theology and Ethics
Mrs. Karen Clark, Registrar

Master of Arts

Lorryn Macie Holstein
Deanna Lynn York

Master of Ministry

Seungchan Back
Christopher A. Briggs
Joshua Lee Butler, Sr.
Yolanda Ann Copeland
Adrienne C. Lewis Dillard
Rachelle Rene Epperson
David Fernandez
Derrick P. Garth
Jihye Kim
Jung Ho Kim
Jeonghak Lee
Marcus L. Martin
Mary Ann Montgomery
Chelsey Risa Noel
Hawng Nyoi
Francy Orejuela Ordoñez
Marissa Marie Phillips
Fany Quezada de Sarria
Myungchul Song
Paula Jenee Thomas

Master of Arts in Christian Ministries

Abraham Moisés Arboleda Ruiz
Christy L. Gibas
Jair Illidge
H. Alan Mushegan, Jr.
Monique Dianne Oliver
Cynthia M. Price
Marc S. Thomas

Master of Divinity

Celia Guadalupe Alanis Flores
Elizabeth Arbe Baltazar
Kent Charles Bascome
Yeni Bolufer Pérez
Gregory Lynn Briddell
Angela Dawn Byron
Hiram Daniel Cardenas Mendez
Leah Marie Caron
Yetel Castaneda Ramirez
May Hyunjung Cho
Julio Eduardo Contreras Carrillo
Luis Sebastião De Sousa
Yudeisy Estrada Dieguez
Carlos Fasanando Mendieta
Leonard Frieson, Jr.
Eliezer Garrido Padilla
Edward Jay Gebhart
Mark Lane Hobgood
Derick Yoyarib Jaramillo Gonzalez

Jeff Thomas Jeffries
Betty Kiboko
Hyangmi Koo
Vladimir Labrador
Byunghee Lee
Chung Ho Lee
Ronny Erin Lezama Zamora
Inakis Lopez
Daisis Elena Marquez Buelvas
Michael Ray Martin
Juan Alberto Meneses Florian
William Eric Minamyer
Jessica Marilyn Miranda Aguilar
María del Carmen Mora Ching
Casey Nawman
Modupe Ogunlaja Armstead
Mister H. Raby
John R. Repass
Rebecca Richards
Renee Moore Ritter
Jesús Abdiel Rodríguez Cedillo
Dennis Cesar Rojas Huerta
Elizabeth Romero Ríos
Mara Patricia Sanchez Peña
José Augusto Sarria Anaya
Aaron Michael Spence
Gwen Stone
Sarah Lynn Thomas
Noel Snow Whiteman
Tracy Ann Winters

AWARDING OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREES

PRESENTED BY

Dr. Elvin Sadler,
Associate Dean for the Doctor of Ministry Program
Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership

Fresh Expressions and Church Renewal

Faculty Mentors: Michael Beck, DMin; Daniel Park, DMin; Rosario Picardo, DMin

Melissa Sadell Bradley

Pastor, The Warehouse Church, Cincinnati, OH
H.E.L.P! Holistic Economic Lessons and Practices

Daniel L. Pezet, II

District Superintendent, The Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Huntersville, NC
Equipping Judicatory Leaders to Encourage Innovative Forms of Church

Travis Keith Smith

Pastor, Acton United Methodist Church, Asheville, NC
The Loneliness Epidemic in the United States of America and How Fresh Expressions Can Make a Difference

Margaret Dumper Sykes

Lead Pastor, Cridersville United Methodist Church, Cridersville, OH
Loving as One: Creating A Missional Community in a Newly Federated Church

Prophetic Preaching and Praxis

Faculty Mentors: Brenda Braam, DMin; Kenneth Cummings, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Tolly Kennon, DMin

Jessica La'na Finney

Chaplain, Salvation Army, Dayton, OH
Building a Relationship Between God and Seniors Through a Interdisciplinary Approach

Jackie H. Williams, Jr.

Reverend, Northern Hill United Methodist Church, San Antonio, TX
Fostering Mental Health Awareness Among Adult Men by Addressing Intergenerational Neglect in Men at the Northern Hill United Methodist Church

Engaging and Growing Congregations through Creative Pastoral Preaching and Leadership Models

Faculty Mentors: Danielle Brown, DMin; Charles Goodman, DMin, PhD; Phillip Pointer, DMin

Faculty Consultants: Darlene Cook, DMin; Wendy Deichmann, PhD; Ian Edwards, DMin

Eric L. Bostick

Pastor, Heritage Christian Community Baptist Church, Tampa, FL
Developing Church Leaders to Effectively Serve the Church and Community in a Post-Pandemic Climate

Crystal Yvonne Mack Bullock

Reverend, Lattisville Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Hurdle Mills, NC
Revitalizing Mentorship Among Christian Women: Reclaiming Our Daughters and Sisters in Sacred Space

Michael O. Flowers

Pastor, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Davidson, NC
Biblical Hospitality: An Equipping Model for Community Engagement

Pamela Evonne Frazier

Associate Minister / Executive Director, Greenleaf Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, Goldsboro, NC
Equipping a New Generation: An Integrated Pathway for Young Adult Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

Demond Antoine Hairston

Pastor, Daniel Chapel AME Zion Church, Phoenix, IL
Unarrested Development: A Framework for Young Adult Discipleship

David Anthony Holder

Associate Minister / Minister of Men, Shiloh Baptist Church, Plainfield, NJ
Equipping Men for Ministry: A Model for Mentorship and Revitalization of Men's Ministries

Jamaar Trumane Jones

Pastor, First Baptist Church East End, Newport News, VA
Church Cultural Shift: Developing a Ministry Framework for Pastor and Congregation in Transition

Quavon Zek Newton

Reverend, St. Stephen A.M.E. Zion Church, Asbury Park, NJ
Preaching That Propels: Fostering An Active Evangelistic Culture

Carey Edmond Pointer, III

Senior Pastor, Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
Who Am I: Equipping Black Men to Evangelize to Young African American Men in Modern Context

Angelia Rowe-Garner

Reverend, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, MD
How To Keep Living After You Die: The Financial Sustainability of The Church Through Estate Planning

Treyvon J. Sinclair, Sr.

Senior Pastor, Christ the King Baptist Church, Milwaukee, WI
Bridges to Healing: Developing a Divorce Recovery Ministry for a Compassionate Church

Patrick Doyle Tate

Reverend, Sandy Ridge AME Zion Church, Landis, NC
Empowering the Church for Healing: A Workshop Model for Grief Ministry Development

Dominique J. Thomas

Servant, St. Mark Baptist Church, Little Rock, AR
Empowering Voices: Building Confidence and Comfort in Public Speaking for Young Adult Black Males

Patrick Jonnathan Walker

Senior Pastor, The New Macedonia Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.
Who Got Next: Developing a Succession Model of Leadership at The New Macedonia Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

Gregory B. Wardlow, Jr.

Pastor, The Lighthouse on the Pike Church, District Heights, MD
A Few Good Men: Identifying and Training Men to Serve in Leadership Roles

Bishop Cho Scholars: Cross-Cultural Ministry and Spiritual Leadership

Faculty Mentors: Young Jin Cho, DMin; Sungho Lee, PhD

Faculty Consultant: Woo Min Lee, PhD

Jeonghwan Kim

Senior Pastor, The Connecticut Central Global Methodist Church, East Hampton, CT
Forming a Holy Habit for Spiritual Renewal of Leaders of the Connecticut Central Global Methodist Church

Gill Lee

Senior Pastor, Ivy Creek United Methodist Church, Charlottesville, VA
Fostering A Vibrant Church Community Through Spiritual Inter-Connectivity in Small Groups

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Faculty Mentors: Anita Coleman, DMin; Jonathan McReynolds, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Reggie Abraham, PhD

Stephanie Rochelle Ball

Servant, The United Methodist Church of the Susquehanna Conference of the Mountain Valley District, State College, PA
Empowering Congregations to Eradicate Biases Toward Leaders with Disabilities

Marquita Robinson Batchelor

Elder, Kingdom Come Ministries, Clairton, PA
Widhood: The Role of Pastoral Care in Establishing a Community of Support

Carla Fortson Harrison

Pastor, Ardis Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Salisbury, NC
Discipleship Development that Transforms Congregational Norms

Jennye Jenkins

Chaplain, Clinical Hospital Chaplain, San Antonio, TX
An Anthropology of Chaplaincy

Artie Clark Maxwell, Jr.

Senior Pastor, Mount Zion Baptist Church, El Paso, TX
The Understanding of Spiritual Leadership and Mentorship vs. Gatekeeping in a Worship Community

Robin J. McAuley-Joseph

Associate Minister, Gethsemane Community Fellowship Baptist Church, Norfolk, VA
Navigating Grief: Building Resilience in Community and Church Leaders Through Inclusive Training

Leon E. Rodgers

Senior Pastor, Mount Carmel Community Baptist Church, Columbus, OH
Removing Systemic Strongholds in Shifting Congregational Paradigms of Worship and Praxis

Carl B. Thompson

Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Abington, MA
Pastoral Care to Non-Traditional Families in the Twenty-First Century

Karen Lynn Hunnicutt White

Ministry Intern, Broad Street United Methodist Church, Columbus, OH
Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse Through Training

Gardner C. Taylor Scholars: Prophetic Leadership – Social Justice and Political Action

Faculty Mentors: Leroy Cothran, DMin

Antoine Shyne

Pastor, Holsey Chapel CME Church, Columbus, GA
A Model for Maintaining Corporate Worship: Despite Life's Circumstances

Strategic Leadership for Black Congregations

Faculty Mentors: William H. Curtis, DMin; Lance Watson, Sr., DMin

Faculty Consultant: Yvette Lovett Martin, DMin

Lorenzo Terrell Bennett

Pastor, Strangers Home Baptist Church, Slaughter, LA

The Bivocational Blueprint: The Necessity for Multiple Streams of Income

Carl L. DeHaney, Jr.

Senior Pastor, Morning Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL

Training Church Leaders to Address the Physical Needs of Its Congregants and Surrounding Community

Terrance W. Hillman, Jr.

Associate Minister, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH

Prophetic Activism: Strengthening Educational and Career Pathways for Young Adult African American Males in Washington, D.C.

Dan W. Larkin, Jr.

Senior Pastor, Southern Missionary Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH

A Ministry Model for Shaping Future Leaders Within the Southern Missionary Baptist Church

Ebony V. Taylor

Associate Minister, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA

We've Come This Far by Faith: Cultivating Spiritual Fortitude in Young Adults

Maurice Mizzell White

Pastor, Zion Traveler Baptist Church, Ruston, LA

Thrive 360 Bootcamp: Empowering Small to Mid-sized Rural Churches to Combat Poverty

Maintaining Ministry Relevance in a Changing World

Faculty Mentors: Dwayne Debnam, DMin; Carl Solomon, DMin; Lisa Weah, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Kevin Taylor, DMin

Heather R. Trahan

Minister, Kingdom Rock Ministries, New Orleans, LA

Unlocking a Prophetic Generation: Fostering Prophetic Boldness Through Spiritual Formation

Randy Clark Scholars: Presenting the Gospel as Jesus Intended – In Love, Authority, and Signs and Wonders

Faculty Mentor: Ian Dunn, DMin, ThD

Faculty Consultant: Andrew Park, PhD

Seung Kwon (Joseph) Yang

Pastor, Chinese Methodist Church, New York, NY

Activating Spirit-Empowered Evangelism in an Urban Church: From Fear to Confidence

Prophetic Activism – From the Cross to the Community

Faculty Mentor: D. Anthony Everett, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Xavier Johnson, PhD

Torren LeVar Cooper

Minister to Young Adults, First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, MD

Prophetic Activism: Strengthening Educational and Career Pathways for Young Adult African American Males in Washington, D.C.

Preaching and Leadership Development in the 21st Century

Faculty Mentors: Lee Fields, Jr., DMin

Faculty Consultant: Mary McWilliams, DMin

Isaac Annor

Pastor, The Church of Pentecost, Ghana, Africa

Enhancing Pastoral Ministry Through New Media Integration in the Church of Pentecost

Builders and Bridgers: Transformational Approaches to Pastoral Leadership, Prophetic Preaching, and Spiritual Formation

Faculty Mentors: Donald Hilliard, DMin; Christopher M. Jones, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Thomas Cotton, DMin

Denise Cunningham-Doggett

Culture Coach, YWCA of Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, OH

Anchored in Hope

Chaena Bernadette Hollist

Pastor, Dayspring Family Church, Irving, TX

Examining How We Educate: Promoting Spiritual Formation and the Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines in the Local Church

Crystal Renee White

Associate Pastor of Operations, New Hope Baptist Church, Metuchen, NJ

Intentional Discipleship Through an Intergenerational Bridge Building Model

Enacting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Beloved Community

Faculty Mentors: C. Anthony Hunt, DMin, PhD; Terri Williams, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Lisa Hess, PhD

Nellie E. Grinage

Associate Minister, Galilee Baptist Church, Dundalk, MD

When Women Become Resilient: Mitigating Life's Traumatic Experiences

Darryl Rashad Kemp

Priest-in-Charge / Mission Developer, The Episcopal Church of St. Katherine Of Alexandria, St. Michael & All Angels, St. Mary the Virgin, Baltimore, MD

The Church as Beloved Community: A Model of Radical Inclusivity

Yolanda L. White

Reverend, University United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS

Developing A Mentorship Model to Empower Women Leaders

Preaching and Leadership to Small and Mid-Size Congregations

Faculty Mentors: Jamison Hunter, DMin; George L. Parks, DMin

Darian C. Bouie

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

Healing from Hurt – God's Guide for Going Forward from Pain to Promise

Darrell Wayne Fielder, Jr.

Staff Pastor, St. John Church Unleashed, Grand Prairie and South Lake, TX

Leaders Stewarding Gift Through Grief: Developing Healthy Habits for Healthy Ministries

Derrick L. Fields

Pastor, Bright Star Missionary Baptist Church, Merigold, MS

Ministering To a Helping Church: Nehemiah as a Model of Adaptive Leadership

Living the Historic Faith: Christian Wisdom for Today's Church

Faculty Mentors: Justus Hunter, PhD; Michael Lowry, DMin; David Watson, PhD; Leslie Tomlinson, DMin

Christopher Michael Wise

Senior Pastor, First Methodist Church of Carrier Mills, Carrier Mills, IL
The Need for Classical Christology in the Modern Western Mainline Protestant Church

Missional Church and Education for Korean Ministries

Faculty Mentor: Seok Jae Jeon, DMiss

Faculty Consultant: Yoon Sun Shin, DMin

Joonsik Chang

Lead Pastor, Joy Korean Global Methodist Church, Madison, AL
Developing Youth Ministry in a Joy Korean Church Through Drama Worship

HyungYong Choi

Presiding Elder, New Hope Global Methodist Church, Presque Isle, ME
Fostering Unity Among Church Members Through Missional Church Workshop at the New Hope Global Methodist Church

Hyuntaek Oh

President, The Gateway Ministry, Seoul, South Korea
Developing Capacity for the Public Nature of the Church Through Spiritual Formation for International Christians in South Korea

Effective Leadership for Creative Ministry in the Post-Modern Church

Faculty Mentor: Bishop Sir Walter Mack, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Garland Thompson, DMin

Lillian Lynn Boyd

Associate Pastor, Bel Air United Methodist Church, Bel Air, MD
Equipping The Church: A Caring Congregational Approach for Connecting People and Their Pets

Sadler Fellows: Embracing the Shift: 21st Century Leadership Development for Innovation and Transformation

Faculty Mentors: David M. Nelson, DMin; J. Elvin Sadler, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Madeline Hennes, DMin

Roxanne M. Mitchell

Pastor, Jerusalem AME Zion Church, Tuscaloosa, AL
A Leadership Model to Strengthen Congregational Identity: I Am Who Christ Says I Am – Reclaiming Our Biblical Identity

Open the Floodgates: Mobilize a Spiritual Movement

Faculty Mentors: Sue Nilson Kibbey, DMin; Brian Law, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Calvin Lane, PhD; Michael Traylor, DMin

Susan Elizabeth Hitts

Pastor, Manchester United Methodist Church, Manchester, MI
Developing Hospitality for Neurodiverse People within a Christian Community via Clergy Education

Mamie L. Johnson

Assistant Pastor, Jubilee Community Church, Springboro, OH
Mental Health and The Church

Jonathan Chinkee Kim

Pastor, Milton United Methodist Church, Milton, WI
Implementing Discipline to Discipleship in the Local Church

Rooted: Anchored for Catalyzing Change

Faculty Mentors: Vance Ross, DMin; Lillian Smith, DMin

Faculty Consultant: Pauline Buisch, PhD

Joty Tavares Allison

Associate Pastor, Witherspoon Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN, *Reclaiming the Black Church's Prophetic Voice: Queering Sacred Belief and Centering the Lives of Black Queer and Trans People*

Pattie Elaine Gordon

Reverend, New Webster United Methodist Church, Wadmalaw Island, SC
Developing Leadership Principles for Women: Acknowledging, Identifying, and Addressing Gender Bias

Ruth Aquellis Martin

Pastor, East St. Paul United Methodist Church, San Antonio, TX
Providing "God-lines" for Merging Drastically Different Congregations – Cultivating the Beloved Church

Charles Ray Osborne, III

Ministerial Secretary, Allegheny West Conference of Seventh-day Adventist, Columbus, OH,
Moving Homebound Seniors from Isolation into Integration into Church Life Through Discipleship Practices

Chaplaincy for All Ministries

Faculty Mentors: Bryant L. Smith, DMin; Moses Taiwo, PhD

Faculty Consultant: Jonathan Hanover, DMin

Richard A. Teftau

Chaplain, Springfield Masonic Community, Springfield, OH
Companionship as One Source of Hope for Older Persons Living in a Care Community Who Have Experienced Grief

***PRAYER FOR GRADUATES**

Dr. Kent Millard, President

***HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Verse 1

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 3

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms.
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

***DISMISSAL AND BLESSING**

Interim Dean Deichmann

Brothers in and sisters in Christ, be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Amen.** [Philippians 1:6]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** [2 Corinthians 13:14]

***THE RECESSIONAL** *Please remain at your seats until all the graduates have recessed.*



HONORED LEADERS

Dr. Kent Millard has served as President of United Theological Seminary since 2016. Before joining the United community, Dr. Millard served 18 years as Senior Pastor at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is a 6,500-member congregation. In March 1965, Dr. Millard marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for voting rights in Selma, Alabama.

Dr. Millard received a bachelor's degree from Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, SD, a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology and his Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has authored books on church renewal (*The Passion Driven Congregation*), leadership (*Lead Like Butler*), and stewardship (*The Gratitude Path*). He has also been chosen as Evangelist of the Year by the Foundation on Evangelism and served as a delegate for General and Jurisdictional Conferences of The United Methodist Church.

Dr. Millard is a retired elder in the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. Dr. Millard and his wife, Cheri, have four children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

Dr. James W. Holsinger Jr. has served as a trustee of United Theological Seminary for eleven years. He has chaired the Board for three years, co-chaired the Fresh Wind Campaign, and served on the Presidential Search Committee. He is a lifelong United Methodist and, with his spouse, Dr. Barbara Holsinger, a founding member of Hope Springs United Methodist Church. His service to the church includes a six-year term as Virginia Conference Lay Leader, a delegate to four General Conferences, eight years as a Judicial Council member, including four years as its president, and eighteen years as the Treasurer of the World Methodist Council. He is a retired physician executive and professor emeritus of the University of Kentucky.

Rev. Dr. Cinda Swan is a Deacon in full connection with the Global Methodist Church. She has served in higher education since 1999 where she taught in the religion department at Lindsey Wilson University in Columbia, Kentucky, for 17 years.

Prior to her tenure in higher education, Dr. Swan served within the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church as a Director of Christian Education, as Chaplain for a senior assisted-living community, and as the Conference Family Life Coordinator. In addition to her appointments within the Kentucky Annual Conference, she worked with an international women's ministry, Aglow International, where she served as the State Prayer Coordinator for Kentucky and the Great Lakes Church-Aglow Regional Coordinator.

She is the author of *Christus Victor: The Triumph of Jesus Christ as the Basis for Spiritual Warfare* and has collaborated on several college textbooks, contributing chapters on the theology of the atonement, the Bible, creation care, science and religion, and prayer. Since receiving her doctorate from United in 2013, she has served as doctoral mentor for two focus groups: Intercultural Studies, and Church Renewal and New Wineskins. Dr. Swan was elected to United's Board of Trustees in 2018 and retires this May from her position as First Vice Chair.

HONORED ALUMNI/AE

Rev. Dr. Tracey Fletcher Allen is a preacher, teacher, exhorter, and visionary leader who exemplifies excellence and a love for God. Dr. Tracey is committed and determined to bring men and women into the abundant life promised to them according to the word of God.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, and the youngest of six, Dr. Tracey has served God in ministry for over 25 years and has pastored in the African Methodist Episcopal Church for over 20 years.

Dr. Allen holds a BA degree in Middle Grades Education, a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, an Educational Specialist degree in Leadership and Supervision, a Master of Divinity in Church Administration, and a Doctor of Ministry in Innovative Leadership and Church Administration. She received her education from Atlanta Public Schools, Clark Atlanta University, Cambridge College in Boston, Massachusetts, the Interdenominational Theological Institute (Turner Seminary) in Atlanta, Georgia, and United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Believing in ministry outside the four walls of the church, Dr. Allen is passionate about ministries that care for the homeless, feed the hungry, and clothe the naked. She leads Christian Education through a spiritual curriculum that helps people learn and implement the foundational beliefs of Christianity, and she has launched her personal ministry entitled "Fletch Life Changing Ministry Consultant Team."

Dr. Allen's favorite scripture that keeps her keeping on is Romans 8:28, "*and we know that all things work together for the good of them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*"

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Jamel McReynolds is a fourth-generation clergy and a native of Paducah, Kentucky. He has served as senior pastor of congregations in multiple states, most notably Oakley Full Gospel Baptist Church of Columbus, Ohio, and Aeon Baptist Church of Rochester, New York.

While in New York, Rev. Dr. McReynolds made ineffable contributions to the Baptist witness and the public square. He was recognized multiple times as one of the 100 most influential citizens of Rochester, New York. He received national recognition for his Solidarity Sundays initiative, which he facilitated during the pandemic. These outdoor public rallies with the community focused on education, economics, voter education and anti-violence initiatives. He implemented a groundbreaking ministry called the Hagar Ministry, which became a grant-funded program and collaboration with the YWCA and Blue Cross-Blue Shield, serving single mothers facing various disparities.

Rev. Dr. McReynolds worked extensively with New York Attorney General Letitia James on matters of social justice within the state of New York, primarily in matters of police and community relations. He also collaborated with New York Senator Chuck Schumer on public advocacy initiatives. While serving in Memphis, Tennessee, he organized the Carter G. Woodson Academy, which focuses upon educational enrichment for middle and high school students.

Rev. Dr. McReynolds is a graduate of the historic Wilberforce University, Harvard University Divinity School and United Theological Seminary. He was consecrated as a Bishop in the Lord's Church in 2018 and has served as Vice-President of the Empire Baptist Convention of New York and in various leadership roles within the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. and the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Susan Arnold is grateful to serve as Executive Director of Development and Connections for the Holston Conference of The United Methodist Church, giving thanks to God for the gift of participating with God in mission in the world. In this role, she leads dedicated teams of ministry practitioners who support, resource, and equip local church leaders to plant new communities of faith, make disciples, and bear witness to the transforming work of Christ.

An ordained elder, she has been appointed in a variety of ministry contexts across the Holston Conference, each one shaping her understanding of God's faithfulness and calling in the life of the Church.

She holds a BS in Elementary Education from East Tennessee State University, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. She earned her Doctor of Ministry in Fresh Expressions and the Future Church from United Theological Seminary. Her doctoral work focused on helping congregations form cooperative partnerships to create new expressions of ministry in response to where God is already at work in their communities.

Susan is passionate about spiritual direction, deep listening, and leadership development. She seeks to help others discern God's voice and join in God's ongoing work of renewing and expanding the Church as a living expression of the beloved community.

She and her husband, Mike, have been married for 35 years and are grateful for their family, including four adult children and two grandchildren, as a continual reminder of God's goodness and grace.

Thank you for attending the Commencement Celebration
honoring our 2026 Graduates

Graduates and guests are invited to a reception
immediately following the ceremony

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Special thanks and appreciation to the organizations, staff and faculty
who participated and contributed to the 2026 Commencement program:

Christian Life Center for hosting

Oakwood Brass for their gift of music

United's Alumni/ae Association for sponsoring the student reception

All the staff and faculty

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united
Theological Seminary

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Christian leaders to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

United Theological Seminary communications and marketing professionals will be gathering still
images and video for use on seminary social media and websites, as well as for other
marketing and news purposes. Your participation in the public ceremony grants
United Theological Seminary permission to use your likeness in such material.