



2022 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

NORTHEASTERN SEMINARY

at Roberts Wesleyan College

Rochester, New York

COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May Twenty-First

Two Thousand Twenty-Two

WELCOME

TODAY'S GRADUATES join over 600 Northeastern Seminary alumni ministering around the nation and world. Representing over 30 different Christian faith traditions they share in the mission of God through innovative approaches to ministry, engagement of their cultural context, perseverance in the face of challenges, excellence in biblical preaching and worship, and transformation of self and others through spiritual formation. Since opening its doors in 1998, the Seminary has continued to grow in prominence as an independent, multi-denominational seminary and as a significant resource for the Church community in upstate New York.

MISSION

Rooted in biblical and historic Christian faith, Northeastern Seminary prepares Christ-centered men and women for faithful, effective ministry to the Church and the world.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

**Deana L. Porterfield, President
Presiding**

**Douglas R. Cullum, Vice President and Dean
Assisting**

Prelude Music

*Processional

Julie Runion, piano
Paul Shewan, trumpet

*Invocation

Wayne McCown
Representative, Board of Trustees

Welcome

President

*Hymn

Praise to The Lord, The Almighty
Words on page 7

Scripture

Matthew 13:52 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-11 Dingli Chen, M.Div. '22

Conferral of Certificates

Vice President and Dean

Rochester Bible Institute

Ronald Mathis Sr., Bishop

Student Reflection

Janice Denise Lum, M.Div. '22

Special Music

Jeffery McGhee, vocal

Prayer for Our World

Dmitriy Brovka, M.A. '22
Josef Sykora, Associate Professor
of Biblical Interpretation

Introduction of Speaker

Vice President and Dean

Commencement Sermon

Treasure in Clay Jars

Rebecca S. Letterman
Professor of Spiritual Formation

Presentation of the Graduating Class

Vice President and Dean

Charge to the Graduates and Conferral of Degrees

President

Crossing of the Platform

Class of 2022

Prayer for Graduates

Elizabeth L. Gerhardt
Professor of Theology and Social
Ethics, Dean Designee

Alumni Greeting

William Mosier-Peterson
Director of Seminary Advancement

*Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King
Words on page 7

*Benediction

Gerald L. Coleman, M.Div. '22
Campus Pastor

*Recessional

Please remain at your seats until graduates have exited the auditorium.

*Guests Stand

GRADUATES

Partner Certificate

Marcelle Y. Davis	Certificate in Christian Ministry	Rochester Bible Institute
Regina Doyle	Certificate in Christian Ministry	Rochester Bible Institute
Diane Parker	Certificate in Christian Ministry	Rochester Bible Institute
Carilyn Ann Thomas	Certificate in Christian Ministry	Rochester Bible Institute

Northeastern Seminary Graduate Certificate

*David Allen	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Glenn Austin	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Wesley Becker	Chaplaincy	Advanced Certificate
*Crystal Bickford	Chaplaincy	Advanced Certificate
Christa Bonnet	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Reginald Davis	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
Gail Gilmore	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
Anthony Gilmore III	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
Jessica Isaak	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
Melissa MacLean	Spiritual Direction	Advanced Certificate
*Mavis Mazhura	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Rachel McCarley	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Steven Nichols	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate
*Karen J. Scheske	Scripture, Theology, and Ministry	Advanced Certificate

Master of Arts

Kellie Christine Barbato	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
*Saundra Biltz	Theology and Social Justice	M.A.
*Matthew Bleiler	Theological Studies	M.A.
Jennifer Brim	Theological Studies	M.A.
Dmitriy Brovka	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
Kelly Lorraine Fasoldt	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
Adam Heath	Theology and Social Justice	M.A.
Angela H.N. Hoover	Theological Studies	M.A.
John Iamaio	Ministry Practice	M.A.
*Christopher Parker	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
Rachel Patchen	Theological Studies	M.A.
Aiysha Pendleton	Theological Studies	M.A.
David M. Quigley	Theological Studies	M.A.
Kathleen R. Rose	Theological Studies	M.A.
Kim Rowlands	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
Rebecca Taylor	Transformational Leadership	M.A.
*Marc S. Thomas	Theological Studies	M.A.

Master of Divinity

Frances L. Burt	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Dingli Chen	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Gerald L. Coleman	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Joshua Alan Edwards	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Joshua Michael Green	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Janice Denise Lum	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Kathryn MacConnell	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Scott Roland Misar	Theological Professions	M.Div.	Advanced Biblical Studies
Christine Mitchell	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Antoinette Montgomery	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Richard Roberts	Theological Professions	M.Div.	Chaplaincy
*Penny M. Sutterby	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
William H. Walker	Theological Professions	M.Div.	
Ted E. Warner	Theological Professions	M.Div.	Advanced Biblical Studies
Hope Washburn	Theological Professions	M.Div.	

Advanced Pastoral Studies

Michelle Law-Gordon Advanced Pastoral Studies Certificate

Doctor of Ministry

Alma Marie McKee Doctor of Ministry D.Min.
Dissertation: Spiritual Coping Among
Emergency Department Nurses

David Parker Doctor of Ministry D.Min.
Dissertation: A Gospel that Still Reaches
African-American Urban Communities

Brenda J. Sherman Doctor of Ministry D.Min.
Dissertation: When the Spirit Moves:
A Spiritual Model for Congregational
Support in the Recovery of Substance Abuse

Patrick David Tharp Doctor of Ministry D.Min.
Dissertation: Missional Ministry in a
Multiethnic Church: A Case Study of Grace
Point Alliance Church

*In absentia

The Pulpit

The antique pulpit is a donation from the Albion Free Methodist Church, the first in the Free Methodist denomination. Dedicated as part of the church building on May 18, 1860, the pulpit has been in use since the earliest days of our founder, the Rev. B.T. Roberts, and his colleagues in Free Methodist ministry. The pulpit has been used for the Inauguration of President Deana L. Porterfield and for each Commencement as a symbol of our rich heritage and commitment to the ideals of B.T. Roberts.

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty

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;
Sing now in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth, sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen how thy desires all have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,
Who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, 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 for aye we adore Him.

All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us sing
Alleluia, Alleluia
O burning sun with golden beam, O silver moon with softer gleam
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

O rushing wind and breezes soft, O clouds that sail in Heaven along
Alleluia, Alleluia
O rising moon in praise rejoice, O lights of evening find a voice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Let all things their Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness
Alleluia, Alleluia
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, three in one
Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

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Josef Sykora, Associate Professor of Biblical Interpretation
Christopher Zoccali, Director of Doctor of Ministry Program, Assistant Professor of New Testament

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Bettie Flood
C. Lawanza Lane
Denise Logan
Ronald Mathis
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Ken Odell
D. J. Robinson
David Sandford
Barbara JP Thomas
Helen Young

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The caps and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students of those days wore them to keep warm. Today, their function is ceremonial.

The gowns for the bachelor's degree, earned after undergraduate study, have a long, pleated front and intricate shirring across the shoulders and back. The bachelor's gown is distinguished by its long, pointed sleeves.

Gowns for the master's degree, earned by post-graduate work, are similar to the gowns for the bachelor's degree, but the very long sleeve is square and closed at the end.

Gowns for the doctor's degree are distinguished by velvet bars on the full, round, open sleeves and broad velvet panels down the front and around the neck. This velvet trimming may be either black or the color distinctive of the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

Caps may be of serge, broadcloth, or (for the doctor's outfit only) velvet. The tassel of the doctor's cap is usually of gold bullion.

It is the hood that gives the color and real meaning of the academic costume. A black shell, of varying sizes for the three degrees and of material to match the gown, is silk-lined with the color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is bordered with velvet of the proper width to indicate the degree. The color of the velvet signifies the field of learning to which the degree pertains. Scarlet represents the field of theology.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Rebecca S. Letterman, Ph.D.

Dr. Rebecca S. Letterman grew up as the daughter of a Pentecostal minister and sensed a call to full-time ministry as a child. She is now an ordained Elder in the Free Methodist Church (Genesis Conference).

Dr. Letterman began her formal Christian spiritual formation studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with Dr. Adrian van Kaam, founder of the field of Formative Spirituality, and his colleague Dr. Susan Muto. After completing an Advanced Certification Program in Formative Spirituality, Dr. Letterman served at the academy as an adjunct teacher in the program and recently coauthored with Dr. Muto a basic introduction to van Kaam's work.

In 2006 her family moved to Rochester, and thus began her relationship with Northeastern Seminary, where she currently teaches Formative Spirituality courses and guides the spiritual formation components of the curriculum. She is a founding member and volunteer clergy person at Community of the Savior, Mt. Hope, where she regularly preaches, celebrates Eucharist, plans and leads liturgies, cantors, and serves in healing prayer ministry.

Dr. Letterman's vocation focuses on bridging formative faith traditions – whether across time or across cultures – in order to foster respect for diversity, while at the same time nurturing unity among Judeo-Christian faith communities that are seeking to live in vital relationship with God, one another, and the wider world.



**NORTHEASTERN
SEMINARY**

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