



# PHILLIPS SEMINARY

> *where faith leads*

Phillips Theological Seminary  
**Commencement**

11 a.m., Saturday, May 18, 2019



# PHILLIPS SEMINARY

## Greetings from the President

**Dear Graduands (and Families and Friends):**

This time of year, full as it is of celebrations of accomplishments and commencements of life after seminary, is bittersweet for those of us who live the academic life. On the one hand, we celebrate with you all that has been learned in our time together here at Phillips Theological Seminary; we celebrate new insight, we celebrate renewed faith in the God we know through Jesus the Christ, we celebrate transformed commitments to participate in offering the bread of compassion and the wine of justice to all who are hungry and thirsty.



And yet, on the other hand, once again our students are leaving. We have been privileged to hear your anguish when our words or the words in the books we assigned touched a nerve and you poured out your pain in an online discussion board. We have been honored to witness moments when you understood that the Jesus you had assumed you knew was not always the Jesus presented in the gospels, or the histories of churches, or the theologies of the faithful. We have been delighted by the sermons you preached, the lessons you taught, the care you gave, the worship you planned, the ethics you espoused. But now you have finished this phase of your vocation and you must go.

Take with you all that you have learned in these semesters together—and weave it into your vocations as theological leaders, regardless of where God leads you. Take with you one another, the people with whom you laughed, complained, studied, learned, prayed. Take a few books, your class notes, and all your papers, brilliant and not quite so, to remind yourself of all that you accomplished and all that you have left to do on behalf of God in the world. And take with you our best wishes, our prayers, and our confidence that you will indeed bear witness to God's wholeness in a very fractured world.

Congratulations, graduands! Congratulations, family, friends, supporters!

May the peace and grace of God go with you all,

**Nancy Claire Pittman**

# The Commencement Service

## Prelude

Selections by Bach, Handel, Telemann and Buxtehude

**Paul M. Pinkosky, MBA**

*Organist/Music Director, First Christian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma*

## \*Processional Hymn

**Mr. Pinkosky**

### “Here, O God, We Come Before Thee”

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1) Here, O God, we come before Thee,<br/>one in purpose, one in love.<br/>Vibrant light and wondrous beauty,<br/>set our minds on things above.<br/>Prophets, martyrs, saints, apostles,<br/>to your praise our spirits move,<br/>to your praise our spirits move.</p> <p>2) By your Holy Spirit’s leading,<br/>you have brought us on our way.<br/>Called of Christ, the message heeding,<br/>we would serve you in our day.<br/>Take us, aid us, mold and make us<br/>servants of your will, we pray,<br/>servants of your will, we pray.</p> | <p>3) Grant that in these days of learning<br/>we may glimpse the chalice gleam.<br/>Share our faith, your truth discerning,<br/>following still the prophets’ dream.<br/>Keep us, teach us, guide and use us,<br/>till your reign of love has come,<br/>till your reign of love has come.</p> <p>4) Let us, then in fields of labor<br/>fashion plowshares from our swords.<br/>Bind in love both foe and neighbor,<br/>swell the glad triumphant chords:<br/>Alleluia! Alleluia!<br/>serving you throughout the world,<br/>serving you throughout the world.</p> |
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Seminary Hymn Words: Wilfred E. Powell. Adapted by Nancy Kouns, 1996 and Sharon Watkins, 1997 / Tune: CWM RHONDDA.

## \*Invocation

**Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, PhD**

*Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology*

## Greetings

**Nancy Claire Pittman, PhD**

*President*

*Stephen J. England Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry*

## Senior Class Reflection

**Kara Yarborough Farrow**

*Phillips Graduating Senior*

## Scripture

Genesis 32: 22-31

**Richard F. Ward, PhD**

*Fred B. Craddock Professor of Homiletics and Worship*

## Faculty Reflection

**Dr. Ward**

\* Congregation invited to stand if able.

**Musical Presentation**      **“Your Labor is Not in Vain”**      **Sarah Morice Brubaker, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Theology*  
**and Dr. Ward**  
*Song by Wendell Kimbrough, Isaac Wardell, and Paul Zach*

**Recognition of Awards**      **Joseph A. Bessler, PhD**  
*Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean*

**Presentation of Candidates for Diplomas and Degrees**      **Claire Meredith, BS**  
*Chair of the Board of Trustees*

**Conferral of Diplomas and Degrees**      **Dr. Pittman**

**Ceremony of Hooding**      **Dr. Bessler**

**Ellen J. Blue, PhD**  
*Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies*

**Kathleen D. McCallie, PhD**  
*Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program*  
*Assistant Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Ethics*

**Presentation of Diplomas**      **Dr. Pittman**

**Charge to Graduates**      **Dr. Bessler**

**Response of Graduates** (standing)

We will, with God’s help continue to live and grow in ministries that draw us into, out of, and beyond ourselves, attentive to the love of God and to God’s work of cultivating vital congregations, communities, conversations and the public good.

**\*Benediction**      **Lisa Barnett, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity*

**\*Recessional Hymn**

**Mr. Pinkosky**

**“Let the Whole Creation Cry”**

- 1) Let the whole creation cry, Alleluia!  
“Glory be to God on high!” Alleluia!  
Sun and moon, lift up your voice, Alleluia!  
Night and stars, in God rejoice, Alleluia!
  
- 2) All who strive to serve the Lord, Alleluia!  
Prophets burning with God’s word, Alleluia!  
Those to whom the arts belong, Alleluia!  
Add your voices to the song, Alleluia!
  
- 3) Men and women, young and old, Alleluia!  
Raise the anthem manifold, Alleluia!  
Join with children’s songs of praise, Alleluia!  
Worship God through all your days, Alleluia!

Words: Stopford A. Brooke, 1881. alt. Music: Robert Williams, 1817

**Postlude**

**“Trumpet Tune”**

**Mr. Pinkosky**

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**Marshals and Ushers**

*Phillips Seminary 2018-2019 Student Senate Members*

**Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane**

**Terrence Gibson**

**Brandon Proffitt**

**Debi Reinhardt**

**Cody Robinson**

**Brent Stanfield**

**Linda Tucker, Graduate**

**Jennie Wachowski-Estes**

**Brent Wiescamp, Graduate**

**Darren Williams, Graduate**

***Reception Immediately Following***

After the recessional hymn, all members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, graduates, and recipients of diplomas will proceed to the front steps of the church for a picture.

Guests are invited to the Fellowship Hall, located on the lower level near the main entrance for a reception in honor of the graduates.

# The Graduates

## Graduate Diploma in General Theological Studies

Jennifer Marie Moreno  
Mary Elizabeth Risi

## Graduate Diploma in Advanced Ministry Studies

Peggy D. Farris  
Marilyn Frances Pickrel

## Master of Arts (Social Justice)

Paige Isabella Clark  
Sara Elise Rudolph-Pollard

## Master of Arts in Ministry and Culture

John A. Jacobs, Jr.  
Rahab "Faith" Muthoni Wambugu  
Darren Brentan Williams

## Master of Theological Studies

Jessica Barr  
Henry Peyton Holub  
*(honors)*  
Daniel Farris Pigg  
*(high honors)*

## Master of Divinity

Kara Yarborough Farrow  
*(high honors)*  
Yadenee Zoe Hailu  
David Huitt  
Randa Kay Reeves  
Linda Marie Tucker  
Cristine Alise Warring  
*(high honors)*  
Allison Paige Wheeler  
*(high honors)*  
Brent Edward Wiescamp

## Doctor of Ministry

Lara Blackwood Pickrel  
*Project: Not Yet Sisters: Friendship as Model for Mission and Ministry*  
Adviser: Dr. Sarah Morice Brubaker  
Reader: Dr. Ellen Blue

Wilma Zalabak  
*Project: Mining for Trust and Love in Community on Franklin Gateway,  
In Marietta, Georgia, with Listening and Preaching as Tools*  
Adviser: Dr. Kathleen D. McCallie  
Reader: Dr. Sarah Morice Brubaker

# Professors' Book Awards

## **Lisa Barnett**

Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane  
Chelle Moore  
Debi Reinhardt  
Darren Williams

## **Joseph A. Bessler**

Nancy Hodgkinson

## **Ellen Blue**

Kaaryn Keller  
Kelly Tyrrell

## **Arthur F. Carter, Jr.**

Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane  
Kelly Tyrrell

## **Lisa Davison**

Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane  
Trent Lockhart  
Daniel Pigg  
Liz Ternes

## **Annie Lockhart-Gilroy**

LaToya Shepherd

## **Kathleen D. McCallie**

Donna Greene  
Greg Taylor

## **Sarah Morice Brubaker**

Sara Rudolph-Pollard  
Evan Taylor  
Kelly Tyrrell

## **Nancy Claire Pittman**

Cristine Warring

## **Susanna Southard**

Heidi Bounds  
Angela Williams

## **Richard Ward**

Nancy Hodgkinson  
Judith Nakibuuka  
Debi Reinhardt  
Cody Robinson  
Jennie Wachowski-Estes  
Brent Wiescamp



# Student Achievement Awards

## **Community Life Award**

Brent Wiescamp

## **R.G. and Della Mae Ericson Preaching Award**

Lukus Ebert

## **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Awards**

Outstanding Graduate: Allison Wheeler

Senior Honor: Renee Goodwin

Middler Honor: Trent Lockhart

Junior Honor: Reed Dressler

## **United Church of Christ Award**

Outstanding Student: Jennie Wachowski-Estes

## **Robert T. and Harriet M. Peake Scholarship**

Angela Williams

## **Phillips University Legacy Scholarship**

Alyssa Dawn Spradlin

## **Trudy and Howard Plowman Book Award**

Cody Clay Robinson

## **Sojourner Award**

Rahab "Faith" Muthoni Wambugu

## **Joe Strange Book Award**

Tina Christian

## **Matthew Thompson Fellowship**

Alexis Engelbrecht-Villafane

## **John L. Thomas, Jr., Prize for Pastoral Preaching Award**

Terrence Gibson

Gary Russell

## **United Methodist Award**

Outstanding Graduate: Linda Tucker

Outstanding Student: Jennifer Solis

## **Charles and Jean Whitmer Evangelistic Preaching Fellowship**

Tina Christian

## **Sandy Wylie Preaching Award**

Amanda DeWitt

## **Peggy and Richard Ziglar Award for Excellence in Christian Education**

Reed Dressler

Kyle Miller-Shawnee

# The Board of Trustees

**Claire Meredith**  
*Chair of the Board*

**Sally Kelley**  
*Vice Chair*

**Jeffrey Champeau**  
*Secretary*

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Chickashaw, OK

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**Steve Fate**  
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Spencer, OK

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Tulsa, OK

**Jocelyn Payne**  
Tulsa, OK

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Versailles, KY

**Ulysses Washington**  
Little Rock, AR

**Minna Zelch**  
Chagrin Falls, OH

## Representatives

**Renee Bridwell**  
*Alumni Representative*  
Wichita, KS

**Renee Goodwin**  
*Student Representative*  
Neodesha, KS

**Sarah Morice Brubaker**  
*Faculty Representative*  
Tulsa, OK

**Diana Lomeli**  
*Staff Representative*  
Owasso, OK

## Emeriti

**Kyle Maxwell**, *Member Emeritus*  
Yukon, Oklahoma

**Lynn Moore**, *Chair Emeritus*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## Regular Faculty

**Lisa Barnett, BA, MDiv, ThM, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity*

**Joseph A. Bessler, BS, MTS, PhD**  
*Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology*

**Ellen J. Blue, BS, MA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Mouzon Biggs, Jr. Professor of the History of Christianity and United Methodist Studies*

**Sarah Morice Brubaker, BA, MTS, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Theology*

**Arthur F. Carter, Jr., BA, MDiv, MA, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of New Testament*

**Lisa Wilson Davison, BA, MDiv, MA, PhD**  
*Johnnie Eargle Cadieux Professor of Hebrew Bible*

**Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, BA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology*

**Kathleen D. McCallie, BA, MA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Assistant Professor of Ministerial Leadership and Ethics*

**Nancy Claire Pittman, BA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Stephen J. England Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry*

**Susanna Weslie Southard, AB, MDiv, MA**  
*Instructor in Ministry Studies*

**Richard F. Ward, BA, MFA, MAR, PhD**  
*Fred B. Craddock Professor of Homiletics and Worship*

## Affiliate Faculty

**Ray A. Owens, BA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Affiliate Professor of Christian Social Ethics and Black Church Studies*

**Grayson L. Lucky, BA, MA, MTh, DD**  
*Affiliate Professor of United Methodist Studies*

## Faculty and Staff Emeriti/ae

**Marilyn (Mady) Fraser, BS, MDiv, DMin**  
*Assistant Professor of Spirituality  
Chaplain Emerita*

**Harold E. Hatt, BA, BD, MA, PhD**  
*Professor of Theology and Philosophy Emeritus*

**John M. Imbler, BA, MDiv, STM, DMin**  
*Associate Professor of the History of Christianity and Disciples Studies  
Executive Vice President Emeritus*

**Stuart D. McLean, AB, BD, MA, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Christian Education and Theological Ethics Emeritus*

**Don A. Pittman, BA, MDiv, MA, PhD**  
*William Tabbernee Professor of the History of Religions Emeritus*

**Elizabeth Box Price, BA, MRE, EdD**  
*Professor of Christian Education Emerita*

**Bernard Brandon Scott, BA, MA, PhD**  
*Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus*

**Gary E. Peluso-Verdend, BA, MDiv, PhD**  
*Associate Professor of Practical Theology  
President Emeritus*

**Toni Wine Imbler, MTS**  
*Registrar Emerita*

*In addition to those faculty members named above, Phillips Theological Seminary is served by a number of adjunct faculty members who have distinguished records of service.*

# Dean's Charge to Graduates

**You have been called by grace and gifted by the Spirit to serve in various ministries within and beyond the church.**

*I charge you, therefore, to respond faithfully to your calling and to claim your gifts and share them extravagantly wherever you go.*

**You have been educated to be yourselves theological educators in church and society.**

*I charge you, therefore, to be always learners who are forever curious, excited about learning and teachers who teach by word and example.*

**You have been educated for ministry in an ecumenical context.**

*I charge you, therefore, while cherishing your own unique denominational heritages, to appreciate the rich diversity of faith and practice inspired by the longing to follow Jesus, and to pray for and converse with all our companions in the faith in hope of greater solidarity.*

**You have been educated for ministry in a religiously plural world.**

*I charge you, therefore, to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ unashamedly, but with sensitivity and respect for persons of other faiths, who, as pilgrims on other spiritual paths, believe sincerely that they too have been touched by the Holy One.*

**You have been educated for ministry in a divided, deeply wounded and violent world.**

*I charge you, therefore, to be peacemakers and seekers of justice, gentle but firm in your rejection of that which demeans, dehumanizes and destroys the sustainability of life on earth, patient but insistent that evil will not prevail but rather the coming kingdom of God.*

**Finally, you have been educated for ministry in a world that God created and pronounced good and in which God is present and everywhere at work.**

*I charge you, therefore, to rest in the love of God that surrounds you, a love we have come to know by following in the way of Jesus, and to grow continually in the Spirit that nurtures the potential not only of the church as a community of care and healing, but of each one of you in understanding yourself as a child of the Holy One, related to all others near and far, a minister of reconciliation with important work to do so long as you have breath.*



**Phillips Theological Seminary**, established in 1906, is an accredited institution of higher education, affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that offers theological education dedicated to learning the way of Jesus in order to cultivate vital communities, conversations, and the public good. Phillips graduates are equipped to function as leaders and influencers in their congregations and communities.

The seminary's mission is to learn and teach how to be: attentive to God; responsible biblical and theological interpreters; faithful individuals and communities acting with God to transform the world.

Guided by a world-class faculty who are experts in their disciplines, learning at Phillips Theological Seminary is very deep, very scholarly, very public, very personal, and potentially life-changing. Our students investigate how they understand Jesus.

Jesus taught his followers how to love God and neighbor, a love that often confounded religious and political authorities and broke social norms. To counter a world where ignorance and violence mingle with Christianity, students learn Jesus' practices of compassion, freedom, and liberation. Phillips students are educated in an ecumenical context for a multi-faith world. No one denomination, communion, or tradition owns The Way.

### **Identity statement:**

Phillips Theological Seminary offers theological education dedicated to learning the way of Jesus in order to cultivate vital communities, conversations, and the public good.



## The Academic Tradition

A colorful aspect of the commencement season is the academic procession. At the beginning of the ceremony, the faculty enters in order of rank and seniority. Trustees also participate in the procession.

Caps, gowns, and hoods date from the 12th Century when the British medieval universities were under the jurisdiction of the churches, and the scholars were also clerics. Early academic dress was dictated by practical considerations. Caps were a necessity, particularly on shaved heads, in damp and drafty churches, and robes were needed as a protection against the cold. The hood was originally a cowl attached to the robe for warmth. The cap, originally round but today sometimes a square mortarboard, is the same for all degrees. However, a gold tassel is reserved for those holding a doctorate.

The gown indicates the degree. The master's gown is open in the front with oblong sleeves slit to permit the arm to be outside. Open in the front and very full with collar and front panels, the doctoral gown has three velvet bars on each sleeve.

The hood was first selected by scholars as the article to be made distinctive for the various degrees. Hoods vary in length, and the color and width of the velvet binding indicate the degree. In assigning the distinctive colors, the American Council of Education retained many historical associations. For example, the white border for arts, letters, and humanities is taken from the white fur trimming of the Oxford and Cambridge Bachelor of Arts hood. The royal purple of the King's Court signifies law. All hoods awarded today will carry the scarlet velvet of divinity.

The lining of the hood indicates the institution from which the degree was conferred through the use of the school's color(s). The official colors of Phillips Theological Seminary are red and white. The hoods for all degree disciplines awarded today are lined in those colors.



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