



Commencement Exercises

April 18, 2020

Ten O'Clock in the Morning



UNION
PRESBYTERIAN
SEMINARY

Charlotte, North Carolina

WELCOME

My dear graduates of Union Presbyterian Seminary, I greet you with the words Paul shared with the members of the church at Rome in the first century: “Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you.” Paul’s thankfulness was based on the fact that the faith of the Romans was recognized throughout the world. While your faith may not be as broadly known, it is just as deeply appreciated. For all of your hard work, your faithfulness to the tasks set before you during your seminary career, and the dedication to the call that God has extended to you, I, with and on behalf of your faculty, give thanks. We have cherished the opportunity to serve you as faculty and staff, to have been witness to your academic and spiritual growth, to have watched you nurture others as interns, to have advised you as you will now advise others in the faith. I like to say that your graduation brings as much celebration to us as it does to you. Certainly, for different reasons. You, because you mark this moment as one which launches you into the next phase of your vocational life. Us, because we have seen you prepare for this launch and because we are overjoyed to see that preparation yield such wonderful fruit. Our only regret is that the threat of the novel Coronavirus which produces the Covid-19 disease mandates that our 2020 graduation be done as a virtual exercise. We lament the inability to greet you in person and celebrate in the same sanctuary with you and your families. But, like Paul who wishes dearly that he could visit with the Roman church in person, we trust that we are linked spiritually with you this day. “I am longing to see you,” Paul told the Romans. But the circumstances of the day prevented him. And so, knowing that they were spiritually linked, he crafted a connection with the Roman church using the best virtual technology he had at his disposal. The letter. Today, via an upgraded technology, we operate on the trust that we, too, though physically distant, are spiritually connected. Depending on that connection, and operating using our latest technology, we gather with you because it is important that you know how grateful and excited we are for you and for all that your various ministries will bring to the work of God’s church in the world. Go forth in God’s grace, with our thanks.

—Brian Blount, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

*Sharon Presbyterian Church
Charlotte, North Carolina*

*Edward L. Roberson III
Presiding, Chair of the Board of Trustees*

Boldness is embedded in Union Presbyterian Seminary's DNA. Since its beginning as a pioneering institution on the Hampden-Sydney College campus, to its foresight in becoming an independent institution, to its commitment to prioritizing Christian education along with pastoral preparation, to its willingness to risk opening a second campus that embraces shifting educational needs, Union Presbyterian Seminary has demonstrated a tradition of boldness. For more than 200 years, Union Presbyterian Seminary has challenged its students to embody this characteristic in their own lives of faith and ministry by engaging in bold Christian service.

Birthing in 1812 from the cooperative work of two Presbyterian synods, Union Presbyterian Seminary represents a history of ever-expanding collaboration — educating pastors, teachers, missionaries, and scholars for service to Christ and the world. Intentionally, the Seminary seeks to be an advocate for Christ's good news of liberation, forgiveness, equality, and reconciliation, encouraging students, staff, and faculty to devote more of their energy to making a difference in the communities in which the Seminary is located and offering a positive witness to what God has done and is doing through this institution of the church.

Since 1898, one campus of the Seminary has been located in Richmond, Virginia. A second campus was started in 2002 in Charlotte on the campus of Queens University. In 2012, the Charlotte campus moved to its current location on Sharon Road. Most recently, the Seminary's bold vision of engaged, expansive Christian service has continued with the establishment of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership and the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation.

Today marks the sixteenth time commencement exercises have been held in Charlotte. In the 2019–2020 academic year, students at Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus, were taught by six full-time faculty, one affiliate faculty member, and one adjunct faculty member. These scholars, teachers, and preachers are themselves possessed of a deep and vital faith, which is reflected in their scholarly contributions, their leadership in local congregations, and their offering of their very best to the work of training pastors and leaders for bold commitment to Christ's ministry. ✚

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 43: 18-21 & Psalm 16: 7-11 Betsy Mitchell
Entering Class of 2015

Leader: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

People: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

Leader: I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

People: I keep the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Leader: I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

People: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

Leader: The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches.

People: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

Leader: For I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people.

People: You show me the path of life.

Leader: [You are] the people whom I formed for Myself so that you might declare My praise.

People: In Your presence there is fullness of joy; in Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Amen.

A WORD OF WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Robert Blumer
Senior Pastor, Sharon Presbyterian Church

ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Richard N. Boyce
Academic Dean, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus

For the Trustees..... Edward L. Roberson III
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Union Presbyterian Seminary

For the Faculty The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount
President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION The Rev. Dr. E. Carson Brisson
Associate Professor of Bible and Biblical Languages

SCRIPTURE READING
A Reading from the Old Testament: Micah 6: 6-8 The Rev. Dr. E. Carson Brisson

SCRIPTURE READING
A Reading from the New Testament: Matthew 16: 13-25 .. The Rev. Dr. Jerry Lytle Cannon
Senior Pastor, CN Jenkins Memorial Presbyterian, Charlotte

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
“Keys to the Kingdom” The Rev. Dr. Jerry Lytle Cannon

CONFERRING OF DEGREES Edward L. Roberson III, *Board of Trustees*

Presentation of Candidate for the Master of Arts in Christian Education
Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Divinity

RESPONSE FROM GRADUATES

INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND CLOSING PRAYERThe Rev. Jane Mitchell
Chaplain, Charlotte Campus

The eyes of all look to you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season. We thank you that you have fed us with your word this day and have promised to go with us from this place. Prepare us for the long obedience which describes the freedom of your children, and give us the courage to walk with cheerful hearts in the way of Jesus Christ. In his company, may we learn to rejoice in the strange and wonderful fellowship that is your Kingdom, and may we ever delight in him whose grace is obstinately joyful. As we scatter to minister and to teach, help us to remember each other, and to pray for each other, and to comfort and encourage one another. And at the end of our days, gather us to yourself so that in life and in death we may find our only comfort in you. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER Leslie Oliver
Entering Class of 2015

* DECLARATION:
The Seventeenth Spring Session of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte Campus, is closed. The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

* CHARGE The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

* BENEDICTION The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount

* *Please stand if you are able.*

2020 GRADUATES

Master of Arts Christian Education

Martin Pruitt, B.A., M.Div.

Presbyterian College

Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte

Carol Schierlmann, B.A., M.B.A.

University of South Carolina, Columbia

University of South Carolina, Columbia

Master of Divinity

Wanda Altman, B.A.

Limestone College

Marcy Doak, B.A., M.B.A.

Salem College

Wake Forest University

Gail Henderson, B.A., M.A.

Williams College

Wesleyan University

Whitney Moss, B.A.

Presbyterian College

Natalie Raygor, B.A.

Presbyterian College

Laura Thompson, A.B., M.D.

Sarah Lawrence College

Howard University

Travis Worrell, A.A.S., B.Sc

Cape Fear Community College

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

The list of 2020 Graduates cites the names of those anticipated to graduate at the time this program was printed. Inclusion or exclusion of a name does not confer official status.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

The James and Elizabeth Appleby Book Awards

The Appleby Book Award was established in 1977 by persons in and around Laurinburg, North Carolina, to express their appreciation for the ministries of Jim and Lib Appleby. These awards provide books for students entering the pastorate and are given to those whose commitment to Christ and spiritual promise indicate particularly fruitful pastorates to the glory of God.

Whitney Moss, Greer, South Carolina
Natalie Raygor, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Beryl and Charles Kraemer Scholarship

The Beryl and Charles Kraemer Scholarship established by PSCE alumni, is given to a student chosen by the faculty on the basis of a combination of academic and personal qualifications relating to promise in the educational work of the church

Virginia Dugan, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Billy O. Wireman Fund for Leadership

Dr. Billy O. Wireman was president of Queens University of Charlotte from 1978 to 2002. He also served as a trustee of Union-PSCE (now Union Presbyterian Seminary). This award, established by an anonymous donor, supports the training of future leaders in the church who exhibit, as Dr. Wireman did, "deep faith, strong character, great energy, and leadership ability."

Gail Henderson, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Campbell Memorial Grant

The Campbell Memorial Grant is given to assist in defraying expenses during the final year of study. The recipient must be from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and have achieved "candidate" status.

Jennifer Powell, Roanoke, Virginia

The Helen Deans Preaching Award

This award sponsored by Prospect Presbyterian Church near Mooresville, North Carolina, honors a student at Union Presbyterian Seminar, Charlotte Campus who exhibits promise for effective preaching in the church.

Gail Henderson, Charlotte, North Carolina

McLaughlin Rural Church Award

The Henry McLaughlin Rural Church Award is given to a student who has shown interest in rural work and proficiency in rural ministry as demonstrated through field education in a rural setting while in seminary.

Travis Worrell, Wilmington, North Carolina

The Louis L. Rose Jr. Scholarship, established by Louis L. Rose Jr.

The Rose Scholarship Fund is given through Myers Park Presbyterian Church with the intent of providing scholarships for seminary students attending Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte campus.

Allyson Anderson, Charlotte, North Carolina
Marina Luckhoo, Charlotte, North Carolina
Miquel Slaughter, Charlotte, North Carolina

The Anne E. Treichler Prize for Church History

The Anne E. Treichler Prize for Church History is granted on the basis of a paper addressing a specific development in church history during the middle second century through the thirteenth century.

Janice Kominski, Asheville, North Carolina

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Tonya Johnson, *Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Glen Allen, Virginia*

Jenny McDevitt, *New York City Presbytery, New York, New York*

Gay D. Mothershed, *Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Black Mountain, North Carolina*

Agnes W. Norfleet, *Presbytery of Philadelphia, Bryn Maur, Pennsylvania*

One Ho Park, *Presbyterian Church of the Lord, Seoul, Korea*

Lori Archer Raible, *Presbytery of Charlotte, North Carolina*

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Charlie Vaughters, *First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*

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John M. Woods, *Davidson College Presbyterian Church, Davidson, North Carolina*

Courtauld McBryde Young, *Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina*

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Paul Galbreath, *Professor of Theology (Charlotte campus)*

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Adrian P. Bird, *Affiliate Assistant Professor of Church History (Charlotte campus)*

Larry L. Enis, *Adjunct Associate Professor of Evangelism*

Roger Gench, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics*

H. Carson Rhyne Jr., *Adjunct Instructor in Practical Theology*

Megan Strollo, *Adjunct Instructor in Biblical Greek*

Dorothee Tripodi, *Director of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning and Adjunct Instructor of Supervised Ministry*

Patricia L. Vesely, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biblical Hebrew*

Glenn Q. Bannerman, *Professor Emeritus of Recreation and Outdoor Education*

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