



# **Commencement Exercises**

*of the*

*Two Hundred Ninth Session*

**May 15, 2021**

**Ten O'Clock in the Morning**



**UNION**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
SEMINARY

**Richmond, Virginia**

## WELCOME

My dear graduates of Union Presbyterian Seminary, I greet you warmly with the words that the Apostle Paul shared with his beloved church at Philippi: “I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you . . .”

I am grateful for your wonderful grace and boundless patience throughout the course of this very different year. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been unable to gather in person for our classes. And yet you have not only managed to learn and grow through the medium of educational technology, but you have also managed to build community in the process.

Indeed, for the first time, because we were meeting virtually, you actually increased the range of our UPSem community. Students engaged one another across the two campus environments, and students on one campus learned from faculty on the other campus. All the while, those of you who virtually march today maintained your focus toward this graduation goal and accomplished with enthusiasm all the requirements necessary to reach it.

For this, and so much more, I, with and on behalf of your faculty and staff, 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 in your work as interns, and to have advised you as you will now advise others in the faith. Your graduation today brings almost as much joy to us as it does to you. You, because you mark this moment as one that launches you into the next phase of your faith journey. Us, because we have seen you prepare for this launch and because we are overjoyed to see that preparation yield such bountiful fruit. And while we lament the inability to greet you in person and celebrate in the same sanctuary with you and your families, we trust that you know that, though we are physically distant, we are spiritually connected — and forever grateful for the opportunity to have been of service to you on this part of your journey as you follow God’s call.

Go forth now in God’s grace. With our admiration. Our thanks. And our love.

— Brian K. Blount, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary

# UNION PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY

Union Presbyterian Seminary celebrates the class of 2021.

Since its founding in 1812, Union Presbyterian Seminary has served the Presbyterian Church by educating pastors and teachers, missionaries, and scholars for service to Christ and the world. The “Union” in the seminary’s name represents the partnership of the synods of Virginia and North Carolina on behalf of theological education.

Since 1898, the seminary has been located in Richmond, Virginia. Union Theological Seminary federated with the Presbyterian School of Christian Education (formerly the Assembly’s Training School for Lay Workers) to become Union-PSCE in 1997.

In 2002, an extension campus of Union-PSCE was established in Charlotte, North Carolina, and in September 2012, the Charlotte campus of Union Presbyterian Seminary moved to its own building on the campus of Sharon Presbyterian Church.

In July 2010, Union-PSCE changed its name to Union Presbyterian Seminary to reflect a collective vision for the future and to signify the new creation that God is forming out of this historic seminary.

Union Presbyterian Seminary provides a variety of degree programs for those seeking to serve the church of Jesus Christ. Students are currently enrolled in the following degree programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Divinity/Master of Arts in Christian Education, Master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, and Doctor of Philosophy.

The faculty at Union Presbyterian Seminary have given the institution a reputation for excellence. These scholars, teachers, and preachers express a profound and vital Christian faith, and have written hundreds of books, articles, and curricula that have had an important effect on the life of the contemporary Christian church.

Brian K. Blount, president of Union Presbyterian Seminary, is a leading scholar of the New Testament. A native of Smithfield, Virginia, he served as a pastor and a church educator in Newport News, Virginia. He served with distinction as professor of New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary from 1992 until 2007.

Union Presbyterian Seminary has approximately 167 students enrolled in programs to prepare for ministry as pastors, educators, and scholars in service to the church. They represent three nations and more than 15 states. ✝

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

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

## PRELUDE

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 ..... Edward Elgar, arr. Doug Brown

**GATHERING WORDS: PSALM 8:1; PSALM 9:1-2** ..... Margaret Alexander Smerko  
*M.Div. Graduand and Final Level Representative*

**PRAYER**.....Margaret Alexander Smerko  
*M.Div. Graduand and Final Level Representative*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the Trustees..... Edward L. Roberson III  
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees*

For the Faculty..... Brian K. Blount  
*President and Professor of New Testament*  
*in the Walter W. Moore and Charles E. S. Kraemer Presidential Chairs*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** .....Angela Lenora Palmer  
*M.Div./M.A.C.E.. Graduand and*  
*Recipient of the Presidential Service and Leadership Award*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:23–25 .....Angela Lenora Palmer  
*M.Div./M.A.C.E.. Graduand and*  
*Recipient of the Presidential Service and Leadership Award*

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

“A Call to Preach, Teach and Heal” ..... Jimmie Ray Hawkins (M.A.C.E. '86)  
*Director of the Office of Public Witness*  
*Presbyterian Church U.S.A.*

**ANTHEM: FOLLOWER OF THE LAMB**..... Philip Dietterich

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES** ..... Edward Roberson III, Brian K. Blount,  
and Kenneth J. McFayden

Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Arts in Christian Education

Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Divinity

Presentation of Candidates for the Master of Theology

**DECLARATION: Two Hundredth Ninth Session Closed** .....Brian K. Blount

## CHARGE

## BENEDICTION

**PSALM 139:1-18**.....Richmond Faculty

Faculty Marshal: John Carroll

# HONORS 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.*

Jacob Hord III, Gastonia, North Carolina  
Selina Malherbe, Charlotte, North Carolina  
Michele Nierle, Henrico, Virginia  
Cat Parler, Charleston, South Carolina  
Margaret Smerko, Raleigh, North Carolina  
Eric Tang, Kernersville, North Carolina  
Serenitye Taylor, Pineville, North Carolina  
Mollie Trainum, Gloucester, Virginia

## **The Wade and Lou Boggs Scholarship**

*The Boggs Scholarship is awarded annually by the faculty to a rising senior who demonstrates excellence in the study of Christian theology.*

Dakota Wade, Alma, Georgia

## **The Campbell Memorial Grant**

*A fund was established by the children of Hugh Lyle and Mary Van Metre Campbell as a memorial to their parents. Income from this fund is given to assist in defraying expenses during the final year of study.*

David Smithey, Moravian Falls, North Carolina

## **The First Presbyterian Church, Hammond, Louisiana, Award for Preaching and Worship**

*This award is given annually to a student demonstrating special interest and competence in the area of preaching and worship.*

Caitlyn Hathaway, Hartsville, South Carolina

## **The E. T. George Award for Excellence in Homiletics, Worship, and Public Speaking**

*A gift from the late E. T. George of New Orleans, Louisiana, a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church, provides an annual award to a student for excellence in homiletics, worship, and public speaking.*

Leigh Anne Ring, Midlothian, Virginia

## **The Jeanne Gibbs Memorial Award**

*Established by students in memory of Jeanne Gibbs, a member of the PSCE senior class of 1964 who was fatally injured in an automobile accident. The award is made to a student preparing for professional church service, ordinarily a rising senior, who exhibits the qualities that were characteristic of the life of Jeanne Gibbs — maturity, discipline, commitment to Jesus Christ, concern for others, intelligence, and trustworthiness. Jeanne Gibbs was one who inspired confidence and had an enlivening effect on others.*

Ashlee Anderson, Charlotte, North Carolina

## **The Glenn Gibson Memorial Award**

*The Glenn Gibson Memorial Award was established in 1963 by the Fairfield and Reddick Presbyterian Churches, the (former) Presbytery of Sewanee, and the Class of 1963 in memory of Glenn Gibson Jr. It is awarded to middle-level students whose courage and winsomeness in Christ perpetuate those qualities so excellently demonstrated by Glenn Gibson Jr.*

Jillian Marie Lincoln Gatewood, Midland, Michigan

## **The Hess Internship Award**

*The Kurtis Hess Internship Award provides students with the opportunity to engage in urban ministry focusing on social justice and the ministry of reconciliation.*

Letarshia Robinson, Clover, South Carolina

## **The Beryl B. and Charles E.S. Kraemer Scholarship**

*The alumni of PSCE established the Kraemer Scholarship Fund as a grateful tribute to the inspired and delightful ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Kraemer. This award is given to a rising final level student on the basis of academic and personal qualifications relating to promise in the educational work of the church.*

Austin Wachsmuth, Ashland, Virginia  
Andi Stem, Summerville, South Carolina

## **The Malcolm and Mildred McIver Scholarship**

*This award is given to a student entering the final year of study for the Master of Christian Education degree who has strong leadership qualities and a deep commitment to educational ministry.*

Maxwell Michaels, Belmont, North Carolina

## HONORS AND AWARDS (CONTINUED)

### **The 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.*

Samantha J Zeigler, Edinburg, Ohio

### **The Patrick D. Miller Award for Excellence in the Study of Scripture**

*A 1926 graduate of Union, Patrick D. Miller used the Moses D. Hoge Fellowship for a year of further study toward a Master of Theology degree at this institution. Each year, this award is given to candidates in the first degree program who are most deserving by reason of interest, growth, and academic excellence in the study of Scripture.*

Caitlyn Hathaway, Hartsville, South Carolina

### **The Edward Bland and Tommie Pinkney Paisley Scholarship**

*The Paisley Scholarship is given by the PSCE Alumni Association to a rising senior selected by the faculty as one possessing, in unusual measure, qualities of consecration and leadership and giving promise of marked future usefulness in a church vocation.*

Valerie H. Marks, Richmond, Virginia

### **The James D. Simpson Memorial Faithful Servant Award**

*Established by PSCE students in 1996, this award is given to a Union Presbyterian Seminary student who diligently and dependably serves the campus community without regard for personal recognition. Jim Simpson was a member of PSCE's security force who died suddenly in 1996.*

Jabriel Malik Hasan, Richmond, Virginia

### **The James and Elizabeth Smylie Award in American Religious History**

*Established in 2015 by Dr. James and Elizabeth Smylie, this award is given to a student who shows interest and demonstrated academic ability in the pursuit of graduate study focusing on Church History.*

Dana Purdom, Charlotte, North Carolina

### **The Jacquelin Plummer Taylor Award**

*This endowment fund was created in 1985 by Wallace Dean Taylor in honor of his father, the Reverend Jacquelin Plummer Taylor Jr., who was the first ministerial student from First Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and a 1926 graduate of the seminary. The award is given to assist a graduating senior in the transition from the seminary to the pastorate.*

Don R. Moses, Yorktown, Virginia

### **The Anne E. Treichler Prize for Church History**

*This award was established to stimulate understanding of the development of church doctrine in the ancient and medieval church. The faculty grants this award based on a paper addressing a specific development in church history during the middle second century through the thirteenth century.*

Tommy Campbell, Manassas, Virginia

### **Presidential Service and Leadership Award**

*This award recognizes and celebrates graduating students' exceptional contributions to the life, work, and mission of the Union Presbyterian Seminary community during the time of their studies.*

Angela Lenora Palmer, Parkersburg, West Virginia  
Jennifer Powell, Roanoke, Virginia

## MERIT AWARDS

### **Dr. John Chester Frist Scholarship**

Samantha Zeigler, Edinburg, Ohio

### **Warner L. Hall Scholar**

Ashlee Anderson, Charlotte, North Carolina

Lucy Crain, Charlotte, North Carolina

### **The David and Suzanne Jenkins Scholarship Award**

*This award is given each year to a student dedicated to preparing for the parish ministry.*

George Williams, Richmond, Virginia

### **The Percy and Virginia Keffer Scholarship Fund for Ministerial Students**

Jeremy Ray, Richmond, Virginia

### **The Samuel W. Newell, Sr. and Margaret Norris Newell Scholarship**

Stacy Deyerle, Richmond, Virginia

### **Sallie W. Peake Scholarship Award**

Jabriel Hasan, Sandston, Virginia

### **The W. Taliaferro Thompson Scholar**

*Established in honor of Anne Claiborne McIlwaine Thompson, W. Taliaferro Thompson, and William McIlwaine Thompson.*

Dakota Wade, Charlotte, North Carolina

## FELLOWSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDY

### **The Patrick H. and Mary P. Carmichael Fellowship**

*This award is given to a student completing the M.A.C.E. degree at Union Presbyterian Seminary who manifests superior academic achievement and possesses outstanding qualities of leadership.*

Angela Lenora Palmer, Parkersburg, West Virginia

### **The Thomas Cary Johnson Fellowship**

*Mr. and Mrs. John H. Reed of Richmond, Virginia, established this fellowship in 1926 as an expression of their affection for Dr. Thomas Cary Johnson, Professor of Systematic Theology at the seminary and first supply pastor of Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. It is given to a person who has demonstrated outstanding ability and who is known for "excellence of Christian character."*

Douglas Hippe, Avalon, California

### **Martha O. and Fred R. Stair Fellowship**

*This award was established in 1981 by anonymous gifts to honor Martha O. and Fred R. Stair, fourth president of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia. The fellowship is awarded to a graduate elected by the faculty on the basis of promise in pastoral ministry*

Kate Meeks, Williamsburg, Virginia

# 2021 GRADUATES

## Master of Arts in Christian Education

Philip Walter Adams, B.A.  
*Carson-Newman University*

Sandra Asaro, A.A., B.S., M.Ed.  
*Edison Community College*  
*Florida Gulf Coast University*

Camden Coulter Ashworth, B.S.  
*Auburn University*

Jillian Marie Lincoln Gatewood, B.S.  
*Michigan State University*

Mary Catherine Ingalls, B.A.  
*North Carolina State University*

Angela Lenora Palmer, B.A.  
*Judson University*

Sarah McCreery Wilson, B.A., M.S., M.Div.  
*University of Maryland, Baltimore*  
*University of Maryland, College Park*  
*Union Presbyterian Seminary*

## Master of Divinity

Philip Walter Adams, B.A.  
*Carson-Newman University*

Meghan Engstran, B.A.  
*University of Minnesota Duluth*

Jillian Marie Lincoln Gatewood, B.S.  
*Michigan State University*

Caitlyn Elizabeth Hathaway, B.A.  
*Presbyterian College*

Katherine Glenda Meeks, B.A.  
*Davidson College*

Chelsea Ann Morse, B.A.  
*Christopher Newport University*

Don R. Moses, B.S., M.S.  
*Northwestern State University*  
*Arizona State University*

Michele Nierle B.F.A.  
*Kutztown University*

Angela Lenora Palmer, B.A.  
*Judson University*

Catherine Parler, B.A.  
*Converse College*

Alexander Craig Powell II, B.A.  
*Presbyterian College*

Mary Grace Reynolds, B.A.  
*University of Tennessee*

Margaret Alexander Smerko, B.A.  
*Meredith College*

Mollie Rebekah Trainum, B.A.  
*Regent University*

George Dulany Williams, B.A.  
*Shepherd University*

Samantha Jo Zeigler, B.A.  
*Westminster College*

*These lists cite the names of those anticipated to graduate at the time the program was printed. Inclusion or exclusion of a name does not confer official status.*



# 2021 GRADUATES

## Master of Theology

Aaron Brian Davis, B.A., M.Div.  
*North Carolina State University  
Union Presbyterian Seminary*

Michael Andrew Davis, B.A., M.Div.  
*University of Houston  
Samford University*

Elisabeth Elliott Hayes, B.A., M.A.  
*Wake Forest University  
Reformed Theological Seminary*

Douglas Robert Hippe, B.A., M.Div.  
*Dallas Baptist University  
Union Presbyterian Seminary*

Jonathan Neil Moelker, B.S., M.Div.  
*University of Tennessee - Knoxville  
Union Presbyterian Seminary*

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Elizabeth McNair Ayscue, *Presbytery of Charlotte, Albemarle, North Carolina*  
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Peter Bynum, *Presbytery of Hudson River, Larchmont, New York*  
M. Terry Coffey, *First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, North Carolina*  
Marvin P. Daniel, *First Presbyterian Church of Virginia Beach, Richmond, Virginia*  
Mary Sue Donahue, *Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*  
Delano Douglas, *Eltrick United Methodist Church, South Chesterfield, Virginia*  
Mindy Douglas, *Presbytery of New Hope, Durham, North Carolina*  
Christopher Edmonston, *Presbytery of New Hope, Raleigh, North Carolina*  
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E. Bruce Harvey Jr., *Fredericksburg, Virginia*  
Carol Anne Love Jennison, *First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*  
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Jenny McDevitt, *Trinity Presbytery, Lexington, South Carolina*  
Gay D. Mothershed, *Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, Black Mountain, North Carolina*  
Agnes W. Norfleet, *Presbytery of Philadelphia, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania*  
Donald L. Palmer, *Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana*  
One Ho Park, *Graduate School Of Practical Theology, Seoul, Korea*  
Lori Archer Raible, *Presbytery of Charlotte, North Carolina*  
Matthew Rich, *Northeast Georgia Presbytery, Augusta, Georgia*  
Peter S. Ro, *Lord Jesus Korean Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*  
Edward L. Roberson III, *Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church, Tarboro, North Carolina*  
Mary Mauzé Siff, *First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, Texas*  
James G. Somerville, *First Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia*  
Robert R. Taylor, *Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg, Virginia*  
Brent A. Torstrick, *First Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina*  
Charlie Vaughters, *First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*  
James W. Wagner, *First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head, South Carolina*  
John M. Woods, *Davidson College Presbyterian Church, Davidson, North Carolina*  
Courtauld McBryde Young, *Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, North Carolina*

William T. Thompson III, *Life Trustee, First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Virginia*

Catherine Hart Monroe, *Alumni Representative, Presbytery of Eastern Virginia, Norfolk, Virginia*  
Raymond R. Roberts, *Alumni Representative, Presbytery of the James, Richmond, Virginia*

# FACULTY

Samuel L. Adams, *Mary Jane and John F. McNair Chair of Biblical Studies and Professor of Old Testament*  
Rubén Arjona, *Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care*  
Rachel S. Baard, *Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics*  
Brian K. Blount, *President and Professor of New Testament in the Walter W. Moore and Charles E. S. Kraemer Presidential Chairs*  
Richard N. Boyce, *Vice President and Academic Dean (Charlotte campus), and Associate Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Leadership*  
E. Carson Brisson, *Associate Professor of Bible and Biblical Languages (Charlotte campus)*  
John T. Carroll, *Harriet Robertson Fitts Memorial Professor of New Testament*  
Sung Hee Chang, *Director of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning and Associate Professor of Supervised Ministry (Charlotte campus)*  
Rebecca L. Davis, *Associate Professor of Christian Education (Charlotte campus)*  
Dawn DeVries, *John Newton Thomas Professor of Systematic Theology*  
Paul Galbreath, *Professor of Theology (Charlotte campus)*  
Frances Taylor Gench, *Herbert Worth & Annie H. Jackson Professor of Biblical Interpretation*  
Melanie C. Jones, *Instructor of Ethics, Theology and Culture and Director of the Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership*  
Cindy L. Kissel-Ito, *Associate Professor of Christian Education and Director of the Master of Arts in Christian Education Program*  
Christine Luckritz Marquis, *Associate Professor of Church History and Director of the Master of Theology Program*  
Kenneth J. McFayden, *Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean, and Professor of Ministry and Leadership Development*  
Rodney S. Sadler Jr., *Associate Professor of Bible (Charlotte campus) and Director of the Center for Social Justice and Reconciliation*  
Stanley H. Skreslet, *F. S. Royster Professor of Christian Missions*  
Megan Fullerton Strollo, *Assistant Professor of Biblical Languages*  
James Elisha Taneti, *Director of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center for Christian Education and Assistant Professor of World Christianity*  
Richard W. Voelz, *Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship*  
Karen-Marie Yust, *Josiah P. and Anne Wilson Rowe Professor of Christian Education*

Adrian P. Bird, *Affiliate Assistant Professor of Church History (Charlotte campus)*  
Douglas S. Brown, *Director of Music and Adjunct Instructor in Church Music*  
Roger Gench, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics*  
Alison Acker Gruseke, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Old Testament*  
Joshua H. Lunde-Whitler, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of Christian Education*  
H. Carson Rhyne Jr., *Adjunct Instructor in Practical Theology*  
Dorothee Tripodi, *Director of Supervised Ministry and Vocational Planning and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Supervised Ministry*

Samuel E. Balentine, *Professor Emeritus of Old Testament*  
James A. Brashler, *Professor Emeritus of Bible*  
Charles E. Brown, *Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology*  
Ronald Preston Byars, *Professor Emeritus of Preaching and Worship*  
Thomas W. Currie, *Professor Emeritus of Theology*  
Mary Anne Fowlkes, *Professor Emerita of Childhood Education*  
Susan Fox, *Professor Emerita of Supervised Ministry*  
Gwen A. Hawley, *Professor Emerita of Christian Education*  
Jack Dean Kingsbury, *Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theology*  
Pamela Mitchell Legg, *Professor Emerita of Christian Education*  
Carol L. Schnabl Schweitzer, *Associate Professor Emerita of Pastoral Care*  
Henry C. Simmons, *Professor Emeritus of Christian Education*  
Charles M. Swezey, *Professor Emeritus of Christian Ethics*  
Jane Rogers Vann, *Professor Emerita of Christian Education*  
Rebecca Harden Weaver, *Professor Emerita of Church History*  
Louis B. Weeks, *President Emeritus*  
Beverly Zink-Sawyer, *Professor Emerita of Preaching and Worship*

