



NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Think Critically • Act Justly • Lead Faithfully

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

May 21, 2022



CLASS OF 2022

35 Seminary Place | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | 732-247-5241

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Participating in the Commencement Service

Rev. Micah L. McCreary, PhD

President

John Henry Livingston Professor of Theology

Rev. Beth LaNeel Tanner, PhD

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

The Norman and Mary Kansfield Chair of Old Testament

Elder Russell Paarlberg, JD

Attorney, Lanting, Paarlberg & Associates, Ltd.

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General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Janice McLean-Farrell, PhD

Dirck Romeyn Assistant Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry

Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies

Rev. Elizabeth Testa, MDiv

Director, Women's Transformation and Leadership and Equity-Based Hospitality

Reformed Church in America

Member, NBTS Board of Trustees

Reverend Canon Sarah Coakley, PhD

Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity Emerita, University of Cambridge

Honorary Professor, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne and Rome

Joan M. Marshall, MDiv, MSW

Director of Student Care and Outreach

Rev. James H. Brumm, MDiv, MA, MPhil

Director, Reformed Church Center & Theological Writing Center

Benjamin T. Berman, MM

Organist

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022
11:00 AM

PRELUDE *Aria in F Major from the Twelfth Concerto Grosso* George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
arr. Alexandre Guilmant

*PROCESSIONAL *Voluntary II* William Boyce

*VOTUM, SENTENCES AND SALUTATION Micah L. McCreary
President

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. **Amen**

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
The Lord is our God, we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of the Lord's hand.

Grace to you and peace from God our Parent and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

GATHERING PRAYER Beth LaNeel Tanner
Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

WELCOME AND RECOGNITIONS Micah L. McCreary

Introduction of the Speaker

Recognition of Arrivals, Leave-Takings, and Distinctions

Recognition of Board of Trustees

Presentation of President's Service Award

Recognition of Alumni

* We invite you to rise in body or in spirit.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF FITNESS FOR MINISTRY, REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

Russell Paarlberg

Moderator, NBTS Board of Trustees

Vivian Campbell

Carlos Encarnacion Lugo

GREETING FROM THE RCA

Eddy Alemán

General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5: 11–21

Janice McLean–Farrell

Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies

Elizabeth Testa

Member, NBTS Board of Trustees

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

The Cost of the Ministry of Reconciliation

Sarah Coakley

2022 Commencement Speaker

RECOGNITION OF THE CLASS 2020 & 2021

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Micah L. McCreary
Beth LaNeel Tanner

Doctor of Ministry
Master of Arts
Master of Divinity
Certificate in Theological Studies

BLESSING OF THE GRADUATES

Micah L. McCreary

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs

TOULON

Today, we will be singing in our hearts and souls, but in an effort to keep us all safe, we will not sing with our voices.

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs;
Elijah's mantle o'er Elisha cast;
each age in turn for solemn tasks prepares;
make each one nobler, stronger than the last.

Those, here and now, who catch your mystic voice,
with "Here am I! Speak Lord!" shall bravely stand!
As they dare answer, we with thanks rejoice;
God lead them forth to joyous work and grand.

Anoint your servants, faithful servants, they:
prophets for right, who every evil break;
priests, interceding for a world astray;
rulers who, for their Christ, a kingdom make.

Send them, apostles, heralds of your cross!
Forth may they go to tell all realms your grace;
inspired of you, may they count all but loss,
and stand at last with joy before your face.

O mighty age of Prophecy return!
With truth and faith, enrich our urgent time!
Lord Jesus Christ, again with us sojourn;
a weary world awaits your reign sublime!

Text: Denis Wortman (NBTS class of 1860)
Written for the Centennial of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, 1884, alt.
Tune: abridged from Psalm 124 in the Genevan Psalter (1551)

POSTLUDE

In dir ist Freude, BWV 615

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

You are cordially invited to a reception in the NBTS Courtyard.

About Our Commencement Speaker



The Reverend Canon Sarah Coakley, Ph.D.

*Norris–Hulse Professor of Divinity Emerita,
University of Cambridge*

*Honorary Professor,
Australian Catholic University,
Melbourne and Rome*

Sarah Coakley is an English systematic theologian and philosopher of religion whose academic career has spanned roles in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. She has taught at the Universities of Lancaster, Oxford, Harvard (Mallinkcrodt

Professor of Divinity, 1995–2007), Princeton (as the Eli Lilly Visiting Professor, 2003–4), and Cambridge (Norris–Hulse Professor, 2007–18), and in ‘retirement’ has recently enjoyed a research role at the Australian Catholic University. She now lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

She has been an ordained Anglican/Episcopal priest since 2001, and has served in several parishes in both England and the US: it is her particular vocation and delight to marry theological reflection with preaching and teaching in a pastoral setting. Her main academic task at present is the completion of her systematic theology, the first volume of which was published as *God, Sexuality, and the Self: An Essay ‘On the Trinity’* (Cambridge, C.U.P., 2013); the forthcoming second volume (*Sin, Racism and Divine Darkness: An Essay ‘On Human Nature’*) tackles the complex relation of sin and contemporary American racism. Amongst her other publications are *Powers and Submissions: Philosophy, Spirituality and Gender* (Oxford, Blackwell, 2002), *The New Asceticism: Sexuality, Gender and the Quest for God* (London, Bloomsbury, 2015), and her online Gifford Lectures (Aberdeen, 2012), *Sacrifice Regained: Evolution, Cooperation and God*.

Dr. Coakley has a special concern for the future and mission of parish life in the United States across all denominations, and for the challenges of Christian reconciliation at a time of division, uncertainty and threats to democratic processes.

THE CLASS OF 2022

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Concentration in Prophetic Urban Ministry



Zantionyo D. Goodwin

Doctoral Thesis:
An In-Depth Analysis of The Influence of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Leadership on Its Members' Willingness to Participate in Political, Civic, and Social Justice Action



Michael Wilkerson Leach

Doctoral Thesis:
Child Sexual Abuse: Breaking the Silence

With Honors

Concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling

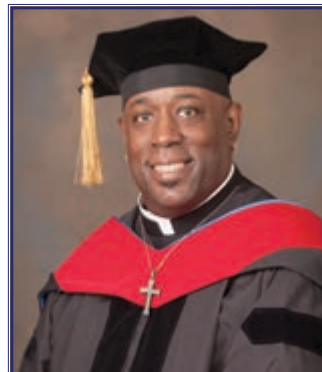


Loré M. Sweet

Doctoral Thesis:
The Power of Life and Love Through Information Sharing: Cancer Awareness and Prevention Ministry at Deliverance Jesus is Coming Church

With Honors

Concentration in Transformational Preaching



F.W. Hood

Doctoral Thesis:
From My Heart to My Heart: A Homiletical Invitation of Devotion



Kali D. Lewis

Doctoral Thesis:
The Language of Transformation: An In-Depth Study on Using the Art of Rhetoric to Transform the Art of Preaching.



Jean W. Milfort

Doctoral Thesis:
Reconceptualizing Preaching in the Haitian Context Within a Pragmatic Paradigm of a Space for Liberation and Transformation

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)



Selema C. Johnson
Summa Cum Laude



Eshe M. Killian
Cum Laude

MASTER OF DIVINITY



Edward Brosius



Vivian Campbell



Ha Cho
Cum Laude



Gregory Cowart



Brenda L. Crespo
Cum Laude



Barbara R. Cummings
Cum Laude

MASTER OF DIVINITY (continued)



Marsha L. Harris
Summa Cum Laude



Pauline Lloyd



Hale B. Thompson
Cum Laude



Carlos Encarnacion Lugo
Cum Laude

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Elvis A. Alvarez
Devonna L. Cousins

Sharon A. Palms
Garrett C. Schall

*Congratulations
to the
Class of 2022!*

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(M.Div. 2011; D.Min. 2016)

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Trenton, NJ

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Union Theological Seminary City of New York
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Reformed Church
North Bergen, NJ

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Grandville & Grand Rapids, MI
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Schenectady, NY

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Interim Director of Programs and Research
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Park Hills Community Church
Los Angeles, CA

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Synod Ministries Coordinator, Regional Synod
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Fishkill, NY

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Pastor, Reformed Church of Linden
Linden, NJ

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Pastor, Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
Atlanta, GA

Rev. Ronald L. Slaughter, DMin

Senior Pastor, Saint James AME Church
Newark, NJ

Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Testa

Women's Transformation and Leadership and
Equity-Based Hospitality, Reformed Church
in America
New Brunswick, NJ

Rev. Anthony Vis

Minister of Word & Sacrament, RCA, Retired
Grimes, IA

Dean Zimmerman, PhD

Professor, Founder and Director of the Rutgers
Center for the Philosophy of Religion,
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ

Ex-Officio

Rev. Eddy Alemán

General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Rev. Micah L. McCreary, PhD

President, New Brunswick Theological
Seminary

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Educating people and calling communities to
Think Critically, Act Justly, and Lead Faithfully

Our History

New Brunswick Seminary began in 1784, when the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church—now known as the Reformed Church in America—elected a New York pastor named John Henry Livingston (1746–1825) to be its “professor.” His task was to prepare students to become the Reformed Church’s ministers of the Word.

Livingston fulfilled that task first in New York City and then, from 1810 until his death, in New Brunswick, where—at first sharing a building and other resources with Queen’s College (now Rutgers University)—what began as only a small group consisting of this theological professor and his students, quickly acquired the structures of organization and support that made it a resilient institution. And here in New Brunswick, surrounded by the College Avenue campus of Rutgers (though from 1867 no longer officially connected with it), the seminary has thrived for more than two centuries.

Over that time, some things have not changed. The seminary’s task is still to prepare ministers for their calling. It still has ties to the Reformed Church in America, and it remains centered in the doctrines of the grace and sovereignty of God that are dear to the Reformed tradition.

But in many other respects, the seminary has changed, especially over the last half-century, as the range of communities it serves has broadened and its vision of ministry has widened. Beginning in the 1960s, major adjustments in the curriculum brought a new emphasis on urban ministry. Then in the 1970s, NBTS made a commitment to offer evening classes and to welcome part-time students, female students, and students of color. Thus began an evolution which has continued ever since, toward a vision which we still embrace today: a diverse and anti-racist center of Christian learning that is committed to serving its urban context and to preparing women and men of many faith communities for Gospel ministries of justice, mercy, and evangelism.

Mission Statement

Called in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, New Brunswick Theological Seminary participates in God’s own laboring to fulfill God’s reign on earth. Rooted in the Reformed tradition and centered in its trust of God’s sovereignty and grace, the Seminary is an inter-cultural, ecumenical school of Christian faith, learning, and scholarship committed to its metro-urban and global contexts.

Our mission is to educate persons and strengthen communities for transformational, public ministries in church and society. We fulfill this mission through creative, contextual, and critical engagement with texts, traditions, and practices.

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



THINK CRITICALLY • ACT JUSTLY • LEAD FAITHFULLY

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION SINCE 1784

MA, MATS, MDiv, DMin & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

NJ CAMPUS | 35 Seminary Place | New Brunswick, NJ 08901 | 732-247-5241

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