



NEW BRUNSWICK  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Think Critically • Act Justly • Lead Faithfully



THE INAUGURAL BIENNIAL  
NBTS GALA

MAY 18, 2023

## Greetings from President McCreary

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Welcome and thank you for joining us at our first Biennial Gala. We are so grateful for your presence, and we are humbled and encouraged by your participation, especially your financial participation.

New Brunswick Theological Seminary is a community called to be in service to the Gospel to support and equip God's people in the living out of their vocational call. I am grateful you have partnered with us in this great work. Ubuntu – We are because you are, and because you are, we are.

We are proud to be a multi-ethnic, intergenerational, ecumenical theological institution of higher education that instills creative, contextual, and critical thinking and a passion for justice that reflects God's transforming love in Jesus Christ. Rooted in God's grace, we are seeking to empower people and communities to explore their calling and live into their futures by providing a place of connection and spiritual formation; to bring a curiosity, openness, creativity, and logic to the critical examination of text and context; and to act with fairness and integrity through analyzing systems of power and privilege. Without you, this life-changing mission would not be possible.

This year, we are honoring the powerful women of the Reformed Church in America as they celebrate 50 years of ordination, and a former member of the Board of Trustees and outstanding longtime supporter of the seminary, the Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders. We are also extremely indebted to our sponsors of tonight's Gala who are listed on the following page.

Thank you for joining us in this amazing mission. I want you to know how incredibly vital your support is in helping us to achieve our mission of empowering individuals and communities to think critically, act justly, and lead faithfully. Enjoy the Gala!



– **Rev. Micah L. McCreary, Ph.D.**  
*President*



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# NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

We are a multiethnic, intergenerational, ecumenical theological institution of higher education that instills creative, contextual, and critical thinking and a passion for justice that reflects God's transforming love in Jesus Christ.

## Our History

New Brunswick Seminary began in 1784, when the Synod of the Reformed Protestant 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—seen more recently in our move to online and hybrid learning which expands our reach and serves our students in ways that meet their needs. All these developments reflect a vision which we still embrace today: to be a multiethnic, intergenerational, ecumenical theological institution of higher education that instills creative, contextual, and critical thinking and a passion for justice that reflects God's transforming love in Jesus Christ.

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## Purpose

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 purpose 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.

## Vision

We envision empowered leaders, ministries, and communities who actively pursue, promote, and engage in the work of justice, reconciliation, and unity, affirming the equality of all God's people.

We envision a community of graduates who bear witness to God's light in the world, where all lives are dignified and all voices are heard, and all are included to share in God's bountiful love.

We envision spiritual communities who embody grace and love, rooted in critical, creative, contextual thinking and leadership that inspires others to live fruitful and faithful lives.

We envision a world where hearts are renewed, justice is established, and faith is restored.

## Mission

Our mission, rooted in God's grace, is to empower people and communities...

- to explore their calling and live into their futures by providing a place of connection and spiritual formation;

- to bring a curiosity, openness, creativity, and logic to the critical examination of text and context; and

- to act with fairness and integrity through analyzing systems of power and privilege.

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## Presidential Service Award

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The NBTS Presidential Service Award is given annually to a devoted individual who has engaged in acts of service benefiting others. This service can be provided to the sacred or secular domains, but must include critical thinking, just acting, and faithful leadership.

The Presidential Service Award recipients manifest in words, deeds, and support of New Brunswick Theological Seminary its growth and sustainability. This award recognizes our sincere appreciation to those committed to NBTS' mission to train leaders who think critically, act justly and lead faithfully.

### Reverend Dr. J. Michael Sanders Fountain Baptist Church

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J. Michael Sanders is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. At present he is Pastor of Fountain Baptist Church in Summit, New Jersey. He has held this position since December of 1983. Prior to this, Rev. Sanders served as Pastor of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in Lake Lure, North Carolina.

Pastor Sanders is a graduate of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, where he received the Bachelor of Arts Degree. He received the Master of Divinity Degree from Duke University School of Divinity in Durham, North Carolina. Pastor Sanders was awarded The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Benedict College, The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Florida Memorial University and The Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Pastor Sanders is a Life Member of the NAACP and a Life Member of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. He is also a member of American Baptist Churches, the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., Summit Interfaith Clergy Association and the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. Pastor Sanders has led Fountain to be a strong supporter of mission. Over seven hundred thousand dollars has been given to the United Negro College Fund. Fountain gave a grant of thirty thousand dollars to aid churches in Haiti.

Fountain purchased a three hundred-thousand-dollar office building in Johannesburg, South Africa. The building was donated to the Baptist Convention of South Africa to serve as National Headquarters for the Convention. Fountain in 2006, made a two-year commitment for a one-million-dollar donation to help with relief efforts in the Gulf Coast; this donation was realized in 2007.

Pastor Sanders is a former member of the Board of Trustees for the New Brunswick Theological Seminary where he led Fountain Baptist Church to make a \$300,000 donation to the Seminary which is one of the largest ever given by an African American church. He is former Moderator for the Middlesex Central Baptist Association, and former President of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention. Pastor Sanders now serves as President of the General Baptist Convention of New Jersey.

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## Presidential Service Award

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### The Women of the Reformed Church in America Celebrating half a century of ordained women's ministry in the RCA

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Women have actively served the RCA throughout its nearly 400-year history. However, it wasn't until 1972 that the denomination opened the offices of deacon and elder to women, with women accepted for ordination as ministers of Word and sacrament in 1979. With all ecclesiastical roles open to them, more RCA women started attending seminaries such as NBTS, equipping themselves for church leadership.

It has been an honor for NBTS to provide theological education to women in the RCA, along with women of many other denominations. Currently, RCA women are enrolled in certificate, master's, and doctoral programs at NBTS. According to Rev. Elizabeth Testa, the RCA's Coordinator for Women's Transformation and Leadership and Equity-Based Hospitality, NBTS is unequivocally committed to equipping women for church leadership: "NBTS supports women students and incarnates

gender justice through its hiring practices and curriculum. The Seminary offers interpersonal and structural support to all its diverse students."

Today, women in the RCA serve as pastors, elders, and deacons, as well as in other leadership roles. They contribute their gifts, influence, and resources through denominational commissions and councils; in classis, regional synod, and general synod leadership and staff positions; as faculty and administration of seminaries and colleges; and in countless local ministries. Women have served as General Synod presidents and as moderators for the General Synod Council.

NBTS celebrates *all* the women of the RCA, those serving in ordained offices and in all other roles in the Church. Together we work toward the full inclusion of women's gifts and leadership in the body of Christ.



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Our Chapel Preacher  
**Reverend Dr. Danielle L. Brown**  
**Senior Pastor, Shiloh Baptist Church**  
NBTS MA & MDiv 2010

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Saved and filled with the Holy Ghost at an early age, The Reverend Dr. Danielle L. Brown finds great joy and satisfaction in learning, living, and preaching the Gospel. Rev. Dr. Brown was Licensed to preach on July 17, 2003, by Cathedral International (The Historic Second Baptist Church) in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and ordained by the American Baptist Churches on June 3, 2012. An increasingly sought-after preacher and workshop leader with the ability to communicate across multiple generations, Dr. Brown has had the opportunity to share the Gospel throughout this country and in South Africa.

Educated in the Perth Amboy Public Schools, Rev. Dr. Brown went on to attend Virginia State University where she was a Provost Scholar and three-sport athlete. After teaching in the Richmond Public Schools, Rev. Brown responded to God's call to return to her hometown and the church of her rearing where she served faithfully on the Pastoral Staff for 15 years.

On August 7, 2021, Dr. Brown was elected the tenth Senior Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, New Jersey. She is the first woman to hold this position since the church's founding in 1908.

A natural leader, Rev. Dr. Brown has served in various capacities where she has worked to develop and implement ministry programs and strategies. She has a passion for mentoring and assisting in the development of faith and community leaders. As such, she is a site supervisor in the Princeton Theological Seminary, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, and Pillar College Field Education Programs, has taught on the adjunct faculty of New York Theological Seminary, and served two terms on the Board of Trustees of New Brunswick Theological Seminary. She has also been active in the Raritan Association of the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey as past Moderator and on the Ordination Committee. Dr. Brown is currently a co-mentor to the Pointer/Brown/Goodman Doctoral Fellows at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. She has the honor of serving on the Advisory Board of the Women in Ministry Conference, Inc. convened by The Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale in Atlanta, GA, and as the Assistant Secretary of the Hampton University Minister's Conference. Dr. Brown is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In addition to her ecclesiastical work, she is active in her local community as a member of the Perth Amboy Area NAACP, serving on the Mayor's Strategic Planning Team and 100 Days Committee in the City of Perth Amboy. She is also a member of the Perth Amboy Board of Education. Through the years, Dr. Brown has been the recipient of multiple awards and recognitions for her work in the church and community.

Both servant and scholar, Rev. Dr. Brown holds Master of Education and Bachelor of Science Degrees from Virginia State University in Petersburg, Virginia, and both a Master of Divinity Degree and Master of Arts Degree from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, New Jersey. She also holds an earned Doctor of Ministry Degree from Palmer Theological Seminary in St. David's Pennsylvania, where she studied Leadership and Church Renewal.

Rev. Dr. Brown loves God, God's Church, and God's people. She counts it an honor and a privilege to serve

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## The Gardner A. Sage Library “The Jewel of the Campus”

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The Sage Library is named after Gardner Avery Sage, a layperson from New York City who donated heavily and personally oversaw its construction. His vision was for an extensive collection in theology that was a model for other libraries to follow, accessible not just to seminarians, but the broader community as well. Its history and mission are detailed in *New Brunswick Theological Seminary; An Illustrated History, 1784–2014* by Dr. John W. Coakley, L. Russell Feakes Memorial Professor of Church History Emeritus; the use of the library was, “to be extended to the whole Church and to the citizens of New Brunswick.” In 2023, the Sage Library community continues to include not only NBTS students, faculty, and alumni, but also Rutgers students, faculty, alumni, area clergy, and enthusiasts for the Reformed Church in America. By the grace of God and generous support from NBTS benefactors, Sage Library flourishes as the physical and digital hub for theological research in the New Brunswick area.

Sage Library was designed by German architect Detliff Lienau to hold 40,000 books. It was designed to look like a 4th century Roman church. In 1875 only the Great Hall and its second story were complete, with a basement. The intention was always to complete an expansion when funding was available for the Library to form the shape of a cross, the Great Hall being the “nave.” The cross formation follows early Medieval and Gothic church styles typical of academic libraries in the 1840–1880 era. Sage Library’s book hall style is thought to be one of only four left in the USA. The Gardner A. Sage Library now contains more than 160,000 bound volumes and 300 periodicals. Its archives and historical collections include rare manuscripts and artifacts. The Gardner A. Sage Library of the future will maintain the library building’s historic integrity and spiritual atmosphere that inspires scholarship, while enhancing its physical accessibility, and the collection’s discoverability, to better foster research.



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## NBTS Student Profile

### “Two Positions, One Mission”

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#### **Rev. Laura Osborne**

NBTS DMin in Missiology and Global Christianity, expected 2024  
Campus Pastor, International Campus Ministry, Western Michigan University  
RCA Coordinator for Interreligious Relations

For some, juggling two half-time jobs would be a struggle. In Pastor Laura Osborne’s case, the positions match so well that any struggle is outpaced by the rewards.

Laura’s eight years as campus pastor among international students at Western Michigan University (WMU) reflect her own transformative experience in campus ministry as an undergrad. Though she had grown up in a Christian home, the mentoring she received through campus ministry grew her faith and sparked her own interest in becoming a pastor.



Laura (left) connects with international students at a WMU event.

At WMU, Laura works with another pastor to create a community of welcome and hospitality for international students of any faith. Her ministry consists of one-on-one discipleship, Bible studies, and community lunches every Thursday. Lunch volunteers include people of all ages and religions, from Buddhist students to seniors from community churches. Though no preaching occurs at these meals, meaningful conversations happen around faith.

Four years ago, Laura donned another hat when she became the RCA Coordinator for Interreligious Relations. This position dovetails with her campus ministry work because both involve interfaith encounters and relationships.

Core to her RCA work are networks and partnerships, such as with—

the CRC in facilitating Journeys into Friendship, a movement of Christlike friendship with neighbors of different cultures and religions.

Shoulder to Shoulder, an organization equipping American faith leaders to address anti-Muslim discrimination and violence.

Laura emphasizes the importance of interfaith understanding, especially at a time when antisemitism and other hate crimes are on the rise in the United States.

NBTS’ DMin in Missiology and Global Christianity is a perfect fit for Laura’s interests and ministry. She loves adding to her knowledge about the history and practices of Christianity across the globe. Laura, as much as anyone, senses the global/local connections as people from all over the world cross her path every day.

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## NBTS Alum Profile

“I like to be challenged”

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### **Rev. Dr. Mashona Walston**

NBTS MDiv 2003, DMin in Pastoral Care and Counseling 2018  
Senior Pastor, First Church of Albany, NY

Mashona Walston was toughing it out at army basic training when she met a chaplain. In this first exposure to chaplaincy, she observed him carefully—the way he listened and ministered to her and her colleagues. The clear revelation of “That’s me!” challenged Mashona to consider seminary.

Enrolling in NBTS was a practical choice: it was affordable and not far from her people in Brooklyn, NY. But it proved to be the right choice. In the early 2000s, NBTS was ahead of its time in its training for urban ministry. Mashona was challenged to understand the importance of land, viewing land and property through the spectrum of colonialism and its effect on urban communities.



Mashona with Dr. McCreary at her ordination

Mashona has served in the American Methodist Episcopal Church, the Reformed Church in America, and at the New York State Veterans Home. While a chaplain among veterans, she realized that she had more to understand, more to learn. An NBTS friend recommended the Seminary’s new DMin in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and she couldn’t shake the possibility.

Like in her MDiv program, Mashona again appreciated the challenging dialogue that occurred between seminarians of different ages, cultures, and denominations. Her professors also challenged her thinking. In the course Addictions and Spirituality, Dr. Ronald Hayes pushed Mashona and her classmates to examine the role of evil in the world. For example, is there a spiritual aspect to drug and alcohol addiction? And if we don’t acknowledge that dimension, can we be truly effective in pastoral counseling?

Mashona’s doctoral research considered how we can use the brain’s capacity for neuroplasticity (the brain’s capacity to change how it responds to stimuli) to promote wellness in ourselves and others. Her focus was on how centering prayer, with its use of silence and a sacred word, can alter our habitual thinking patterns. She has seen the powerful effect of centering prayer on veterans and church attendees.

Mashona is all about partnerships, and under Mashona’s leadership, First Church is finding new ways to team with the community. A nearby Spanish-speaking Montessori school did not have a place for its children to play; now First Church’s gym echoes with their laughter and energy. The church’s green space is used to serve neighborhood meals, such as soup and sandwiches in the winter. “It’s easy to lock ourselves indoors and fear our neighbors,” says Mashona. “But if we contribute to our neighbor’s wellness, fear diminishes and care increases.”

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## Endowing Faculty Chairs

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At the foundation of a seminary are its faculty—theological scholars with the gift of teaching. Recruiting highly skilled seminary professors to NBTS is critical to attracting the brightest students and preparing the next generation of church leaders. One tool to attract and retain excellent professors is the offer of an endowed faculty chair.

### What is an endowed faculty chair?

An endowed faculty chair is a permanent faculty position funded by designated gifts to NBTS. The earnings from the endowment cover the designated professor's salary and benefits, regularly contributing to the Seminary's annual budget. Besides receiving the honor bestowed from holding an endowed chair, the awarded faculty member is encouraged in their academic endeavors, from research to publishing to conference presentations.

### What endowed faculty chairs already exist at NBTS?

Currently at NBTS, there are four endowed faculty chairs:

#### Endowed Chair Name

L. Russell Feakes Chair in the History of Global Christianity  
Horace G. Underwood Chair in Global Christianity  
Dirck Romeyn Chair in Metro-Urban Ministry  
Norman and Mary Kansfield Chair in Old Testament Studies

#### Chair Holder

Nathan Jérémie-Brink  
James Jinhong Kim  
Janice McLean-Farrell  
Beth LaNeel Tanner

### What further endowed chairs are possible at NBTS?

Faculty Chair in New Testament  
Faculty Chair in Pastoral Care and Clinical Care  
Faculty Chair in Preaching and Worship  
John Henry Livingston Professor of Theology (held by the NBTS President)

With a generous gift, supporters could guarantee a position for the life of NBTS. Such a legacy would bless the Seminary, the Church, and the world. To discuss endowing a faculty chair, please contact Vice President of Advancement Cathy Proctor at [cproctor@nbts.edu](mailto:cproctor@nbts.edu) or 732-789-3742.

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## The Impact of Endowed Faculty Chairs

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### **Janice McLean-Farrell**

Dirck Romeyn Assistant Professor of  
Metro-Urban Ministry  
Assistant Dean of Doctoral Studies



*“As our world become increasingly urban, the church of the 21st century will need to be equipped to address this dynamic reality. In holding this endowed chair in metro-urban ministry, my scholarship and teaching are gifts offered to the Church as she lives into the present and emerging urban realities. This award also reminds me of the importance of partners in the work we do in the academy and in service to the church.”*



### **Dr. James Jinhong Kim**

Associate Professor of Missiology and Global Christianity  
Horace G. Underwood Chair in Global Christianity

*“When I first began teaching at NBTS, “Underwood” was someone I admired simply as a successful, if underappreciated, missionary. But then his exemplar modeling of intercultural mission became not only a focus of my historical research, but also the theoretical and theological foundation for my scholarship and mission work. Holding the “Underwood Chair” is a reminder of the responsibility I have to ensure his spirit lives on in the work I do and the life I live.”*

### **Dr. Beth LaNeel Tanner**

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs  
The Rev. Dr. Norman and Mrs. Mary Kansfield  
Professor of Old Testament Studies



*“Having endowed faculty chairs is a sign of longevity and stability for an institution. In the case of NBTS, the Seminary is better able to manage costs for students because some of the faculty positions are permanently funded. Yearly income can be applied to other needed faculty and student services. Ultimately, the generous donors of endowed chairs provide theological education for those for whom it may have been otherwise impossible.”*

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## Philanthropy is a critical part of fulfilling our mission.

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Giving is fundamental to what happens at New Brunswick Theological Seminary— it fuels our vision for the future and guides how we serve and care for our students and our greater community. Our work relies on gifts made throughout the year, not just when classes are in session.

NBTS endeavors to inspire donors to give in any or all of the following ways:

- **Annual Giving.** Annual gifts provide needed funds for the operation and success of the seminary and everything that makes a NBTS education distinctive and meaningful.
- **Planned Giving.** A planned gift is one that you commit to but defer until a later date. This allows you to give a significant donation to NBTS without jeopardizing your current and future obligations. Those who provide for NBTS in their estate plans become members of The Livingston Society.
- **Special and Major Giving.** Special and major gifts play an essential role in supporting current needs and creating new opportunities for NBTS. Whether during a campaign or as part of an emerging funding priority, special gifts make larger investments in our work a reality. Priorities such as technology, endowed scholarships and faculty chairs, and new or existing programs often rely on donors willing to invest in the NBTS experience for our students.

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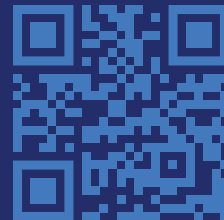
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# 239<sup>th</sup> Year

## of theological education

Student-Faculty  
ratio

# 12:1

	2022 Graduating Class	2022 Incoming Class
Certificate.....	4	16
Masters.....	12	16
DMin .....	6	9

**Our Faculty:**

62% people of color  
and 38% white

**Board of Trustees:**

45% White, 32% African  
American, 14% Latin-  
American, and 9% Asian

# 53%

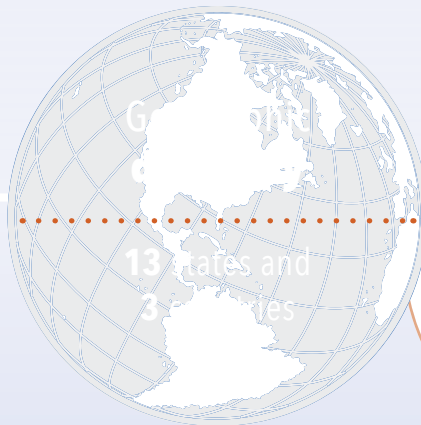
of students identify  
as **female**

# 83%

identify as students  
of **color**

# 72%

of students are  
**ages 40-64**



Our **diverse**  
student body includes  
**many different traditions:**

**Baptist, Episcopal,  
Methodist, Pentecostal,  
Presbyterian,  
Reformed, and  
non-denominational**

CURRENT  
STUDENTS

**BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES**

**100% participation**  
giving to the seminary

**84** Masters

**48** DMin

**33** Certificate



---

*In gratitude for the impact New Brunswick Theological Seminary has made on my life and vocation and in celebration of fifty years of ordained ministry.*

*Continued blessings in your important work and ministry.*

- David and Anna Dethmers





NEW BRUNSWICK  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
ALUMNI

*“The New Brunswick Theological Seminary Alumni Association congratulates the Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders for his phenomenal contributions to the Seminary and his faithful preaching, teaching, and leadership in the larger body of Christ. We congratulate and salute the Women of the RCA for their trailblazing ministry and steadfast work for the glory of God.”*

— NBTS Alumni Association



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# Congratulates



Rev. Dr. J Michael Sanders  
Fountain Baptist Church

*Thank you for exemplify NBTS' mission to train and equip leaders who think critically, act justly, and lead faithfully.*







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TRANSFORMATION AND  
LEADERSHIP THANKS  
NBTs FOR THIS HONOR!**

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sisters' gifts and callings...  
yesterday, today and  
tomorrow!**

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New Brunswick Theological Seminary  
as you host your  
The Inaugural Biennial Gala  
with Guest Preacher,  
Rev. Dr. Danielle Brown,  
and with Special Honorees:  
Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders,  
and the Women of the RCA.

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Pastor Ronald L. Slaughter, I

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**Education**

- Clergy 'Certificate' in crisis training to address religious and spiritual abuse
- Lay/congregation training with the goal of becoming a "Sanctuary" church
- Mental Health Clinician Continuing Education Training

**Research & Program Development**

- Create worship resources for all communities to address themes of religious and spiritual abuse
- Publish books, articles, papers
- Research resources for survivors

**Clinical**

- Therapy for individuals
- Consultations for churches
- Support groups for survivors

**Resourcing & Development**

- Working with local partners in creating resource databases for those who are in need
- Phone hotline to connect clients directly with resources and clinicians
- Creating a 'safe' worship model for religious abuse survivors and/or their families

**Advocacy**

Community Outreach, partnerships, collaboration to end abuse and violence in the spiritual and religious realms.



MySanctuaryHealing@gmail.com  
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MID-ATLANTICS**  
Reformed Church In America

*The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, its churches  
and Subsidiary Corporations salute the  
New Brunswick Theological Seminary  
as you celebrate your Inaugural Gala  
and 50 years of ordination of women  
in the Reformed Church in America  
as elders, deacons, and  
ministers of Word and Sacrament*



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A painting of a landscape with a path, trees, and crosses under a dramatic sky. The scene is rendered in a style that combines realism with symbolic elements. A path leads from the foreground towards the background, flanked by two bare trees. In the distance, several crosses are visible on a hillside, suggesting a cemetery or a place of worship. The sky is filled with vibrant, swirling colors of blue, green, and yellow, creating a sense of divine light or a spiritual atmosphere. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

# “Soli Deo Gloria”

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and NBTS  
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Artwork and Design By Deacon Kim Pearce 914-443-0685



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***Honoring Distinguished Alumni, Church and Community Leaders***

***Thursday, May 18, 2023***



## **Weekly Worship Schedule**

**Saturday:** 6:30 PM

**Sunday:** 7:30 AM & 10:45 AM, 9:30 AM - Sunday Biblical Institute

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for the faithful witness  
of New Brunswick Theological Seminary  
in educating men and women  
through the centuries  
to think critically, act justly and lead faithfully.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are  
the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

Psalm 25:5



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Think Critically • Act Justly • Lead Faithfully

# THE INAUGURAL BIENNIAL GALA

HONORING:

GUEST PREACHER:



**Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders**  
FOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH



**Reformed Church in  
America Women**



**Rev. Dr. Danielle L. Brown**  
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### ***Congratulations***

*to The Women of The Reformed Church in America for faithfully following the Spirit's calling and*

*to Rev. Dr. J. Michael Sanders for his faithful and inspiring service to Christ's church.*

### ***Thank you***

*to New Brunswick Theological Seminary for 239 years of training God's people for ministry.*

***Sincerely,***

***The Reformed Church of Freehold and  
The Community Arts Center of Freehold***



The Community Arts Center of Freehold is a partnership between Gramercy Brass Orchestra of New York, The Reformed Church of Freehold, and The Freehold Area Open Door, providing quality arts programs in the Freehold, NJ area. Current programs include Children's Arts Camps, Premier Concert Offerings, and Youth Instrumental lesson Programs. For more information about Community Arts Center programs, please visit [www.communityartsfreehold.com](http://www.communityartsfreehold.com) or find us on Facebook.

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# Congratulations

**On Your Inaugural Biennial Gala  
Thursday, May 18, 2023**

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Earle V. Conover 1926-1928

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James L. Vande Berg 1966-1969

Andrew Topp 1989-1993

Arlene Romaine 2008-2013

Nathan S. Busker 2004-present

Deborah M. Pierce 2017-present



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## **The Highbridge Community Church**

### **Salutes**

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**For being a light in God's City... training and equipping leaders who think critically, act justly and lead faithfully!**

**In service together**

**Rev. Cora W. Taitt, Pastor**

**Consistory and Members of the Highbridge  
Community Church**

**Also do good things for the city where I sent you as captives. Pray to the LORD for the city where you are living, because if good things happen in the city, good things will happen to you also." Jeremiah 29:7 NCV**



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The First Baptist Church of Whitesboro proudly celebrates the preaching and pastoral Legacy of Rev. J. Michael Sanders.

*Douglas H. Moore, Pastor*  
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## Reformed Church in America

Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards, Executive Minister  
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Email: [newyorksynod@gmail.com](mailto:newyorksynod@gmail.com) [www.newyorksynod.org](http://www.newyorksynod.org)



April 26, 2023

*Dear New Brunswick Theological Seminary,*

*On behalf of the Classes, Consistories, and Congregations of the Regional Synod of New York, we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate New Brunswick Theological Seminary for honoring Distinguished Alumni, Church and Community Leaders who exemplify gracious services and commitment to the Trustees, Faculty and Seminary for the Theological advancement of God's people at New Brunswick Theological Seminary.*

*The Regional Synod of New York acknowledges the Women of the Reformed Church in America for five decades of Ordination as Elders, Deacons and Ministers of Word and Sacrament and celebrate the workings of God for the furtherance of All Women in the Christian Ministry and Mission.*

*May God continue to bless you in the furtherance of Kingdom building, and revitalization as you uphold Jesus' commission to you, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Ghost: Teaching then to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

*Many Blessings*

***Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards, Executive Minister***  
***Rev. Cora W. Taitt, Administrative Minister***  
***Elder Sheila Moses, President***  
***Rev. Maudelin Willock, Vice President***  
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Church: 212-674-3341 Church Cell: 646-329-2892  
Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards, Senior Pastor



April 24, 2023

Dear New Brunswick Theological Seminary,

Congratulations on your upcoming Inaugural Gala on Thursday, May 18, 2023. Your honors of a host of Church and community leaders are worthy of God's Services to the Theological Mission of the New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

The Congregation and Consistory of the DeWitt Reformed Church are pleased to praise God for the accomplishment of our Elders who graduated and our church members who participated in the Certificate Program at New Brunswick Theological seminary.

It is always heartening for me as a graduate from New Brunswick Theological Seminary to see people of faith using their God-given talents and abilities to their greatest potential as Seminarians. You have certainly done an excellent teaching and learning program throughout the years. NBTS has also demonstrated great characters in the Christian Ministry with dignity and integrity.

Continue to honor distinguished alumni and the Women of the RCA who are celebrating five decades of ordination as Elders, Deacons and Ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Humbly submitted:

Rev. Dr. Micheal Edwards (Class of 1984)  
On behalf of the Consistory and Congregation



**PROUD TO SUPPORT**  
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*"For leadership, there is only one road: service. There is no other way."*

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AND EXPRESSES  
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THIS EVENING'S HONOREES:

*The Ordained  
Women  
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We Are In This Together  
For Good!



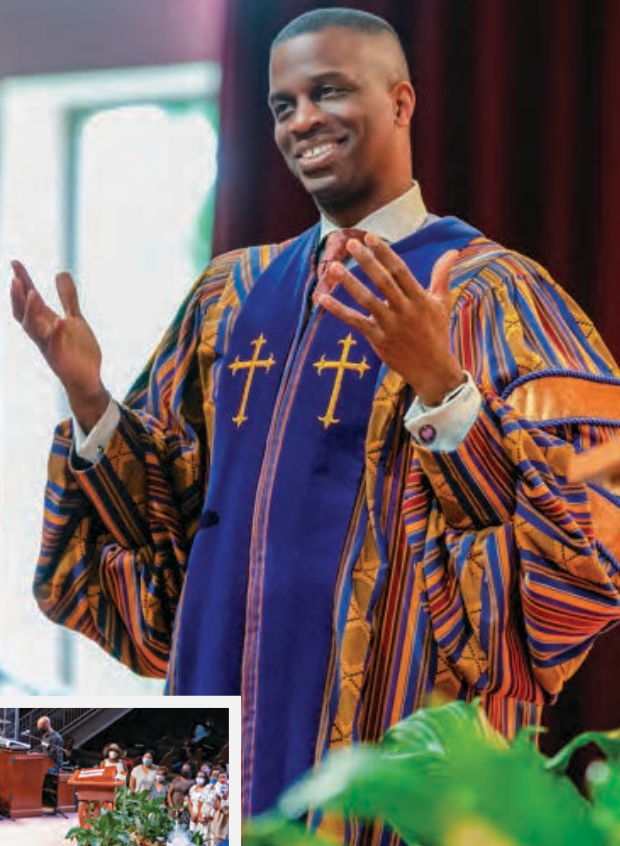
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Theological Seminary  
and  
The Inaugural Biennial Gala  
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BEYOND**





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*Greetings and Best Wishes*

*to*

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Think Critically, Act Justly, and Lead Faithfully.*



*Rev. Dr. Nathaniel T. Grady, Sr.*

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Schenectady

# Congratulations and Best Wishes

to

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on your

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As we continue sharing glories of the past and  
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TO ACT JUSTLY AND

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