



NEW BRUNSWICK
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Think Critically • Act Justly • Lead Faithfully

CLASS OF 2024
COMMENCEMENT
SERVICE

May 18, 2024

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

Rev. Abby Norton-Levering, MDiv (Class of 2004)

Synod Ministries Coordinator, Regional Synod of Albany (RCA)

Moderator, NBTS Board of Trustees

Rev. Eddy Alemán, MDiv

General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Rev. Faye Banks Taylor, DMin (Class of 2004)

Assistant Professor of Spiritual Formation & Field Education

Director of Field Education & Career Services

Rev. Samuel Cruz, PhD (Class of 1994)

Associate Professor of Religion and Society, Union Theological Seminary

Member, NBTS Board of Trustees

Rev. Peter M. Wherry, PhD

Senior Pastor, Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, Charlotte, NC

Janice McLean-Farrell, PhD

Dirck Romeyn Associate Professor of Metro-Urban Ministry

Associate Dean of Doctoral Studies

Rev. Neal Presa, PhD

Vice President of Student Affairs and Vocational Outreach

Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship

Rev. James Hart Brumm, DMin

Assistant Professor of Reformed Church Studies

Director, The Reformed Church Center and The Theological Writing Center

General Editor for the Beardslee Press

Benjamin T. Berman, MM

Organist

COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024
11:00 AM

PRELUDE

Aria in F Major from the Twelfth Concerto Grosso

George Frideric Handel
arr. Alexandre Guilmant

*PROCESSIONAL

Voluntary II

William Boyce

*VOTUM, SENTENCES AND SALUTATION

Micah L. McCreary

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 God's hand.

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

GATHERING PRAYER

Beth LaNeel Tanner

WELCOME AND RECOGNITIONS

Micah L. McCreary

Introduction of the Speaker

Recognition of Arrivals, Leave-Takings, and Distinctions

Recognition of Board of Trustees

Recognition of Alumni

PRESENTATION OF RCA CERTIFICATE OF READINESS FOR EXAMINATION

Abby Norton-Levering

GREETING FROM THE REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

Eddy Alemán

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

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.

² So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³ Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help, for he had nine hundred chariots of iron and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴ At that time Deborah, a prophet, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵ She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶ She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Position yourself at Mount Tabor, taking ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun.

⁷ I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops, and I will give him into your hand.' "

Después de la muerte de Aod, los israelitas volvieron a hacer lo malo ante los ojos del SEÑOR. ² Así que el SEÑOR los entregó en manos de Jabín, un rey cananeo que reinaba en Jazor. El comandante de su ejército era Sísara, que vivía en Jaroset Goyim. ³ Los israelitas clamaron al SEÑOR porque Jabín tenía novecientos carros de hierro y durante veinte años había oprimido cruelmente a los israelitas.

⁴ En aquel tiempo lideraba a Israel una profetisa llamada Débora, que era esposa de Lapidot. ⁵ Ella tenía su tribunal bajo la Palmera de Débora, entre Ramá y Betel, en la región montañosa de Efraín, y los israelitas acudían a ella para resolver sus disputas. ⁶ Débora mandó llamar a Barac, hijo de Abinoán, que vivía en Cedés de Neftalí y le dijo:

—El SEÑOR, el Dios de Israel, ordena: "Ve y reúne en el monte Tabor a diez mil hombres de la tribu de Neftalí y de la tribu de Zabulón. ⁷ Yo atraeré a Sísara, comandante del ejército de Jabín, con sus carros y sus tropas, hasta el arroyo Quisón. Allí lo entregaré en tus manos".

Certificate in Church Leadership
Certificate in Theological Studies
Master of Arts
Master of Divinity
Dual Degree Master of Divinity & Master of Arts in Pastoral Care & Counseling
Doctor of Ministry

*BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL

God of the prophets, bless the prophets' heirs

TOULON

James Hart Brumm
soloist

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

You are cordially invited to a reception at NBTS,
35 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, NJ.

About Our Commencement Speaker

Reverend Peter M. Wherry, PhD



Rev. Dr. Peter M. Wherry is a 45-year veteran pastor, community leader, social activist and scholar. Since January of 2007, he has been Senior Pastor of the Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. Through his work as Founding Moderator of the United Missionary Baptist Association, Dr. Wherry provided leadership to 70 mostly Baptist churches in Charlotte and its surrounding counties, having a constituency of over 40,000 persons. He is one of the pioneer foot soldiers of the Forward Together Moral Movement, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. William Barber, having been among the first two groups of people who submitted themselves for arrest while petitioning the North Carolina General Assembly for economic and social justice, including the fight against voter suppression. He has served as guest lecturer and featured preacher at several seminaries including Gordon Conwell in Charlotte, NC; Union Presbyterian Seminary

in Charlotte, NC; Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA; the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA, where he also served as an adjunct faculty member, teaching Baptist History; and the Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC, where he has served as a doctoral advisor. In 2014, Dr. Wherry was a Main Stage preacher for the centennial session of the Hampton University Ministers Conference, the largest gathering of African American clergy in the world. Dr. Wherry has preached from coast-to-coast in the U.S. and internationally in Greece, Haiti, El Salvador, South Africa, Burundi, and Zambia.

Dr. Wherry is the author of a number of books, articles, and scholarly papers. With his wife, Dr. Wanda H. Wherry, he co-wrote a unique devotional book, *A Door of Hope: A Devotional with Sermons and Songs of Hope*. This first-of-its-kind book included a CD of music, produced by Dr. Wherry and sung by his wife. He collaborated with Dr. Rodney S. Sadler, Jr. (Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte) and Dr. William Turner (Duke University) in writing *The Forward Together Lectionary* for the NC NAACP. It is a unique resource to assist preachers in the task of incorporating Social Justice into their pulpit ministries of houses of faith. His latest book is entitled *Preaching Funerals in the Black Church: Bringing Perspective to Pain*, available through Judson Press, Amazon, Amazon UK, and other online outlets. The Wherrys have been happily married for 42 years. They are the grateful parents of two adult children, Justin (Amy) and Bethany, and the excited grandparents of three (Amari, Amaya, and Michael).

THE CLASS OF 2024

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Pastoral Care and Counseling

LaVerne E. Austin

Doctoral Thesis:

Night Light Ministry, An Intervention for Long-Term Grief, Bereavement, and Mourning Among African American Baptist Christians

Daniel A. Carmona

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

Wounded in the House of Healing: How Seventh-Day Adventist Regional Conference Married Pastoral Couples Experience and Grow from Ministry-Related Trauma

Noah Joseph Lang

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

Exposed and (Un)ashamed: Group Trauma Counseling in a Faith-Based Residential Addiction Recovery Program and the Experience of Shame

With Honors

Carl E. L. Stuart

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

Exploring The Enigma of Suicide Ideation in Extended Adolescence, in the USA and Guyana, as a Way of Mitigating Suicide Ideation and Completion in Youth Populations

Honorary Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care & Counseling

Alexander Brown

Prophetic Urban Ministry

Gregory C. Dunlap

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

Gospel Imperative to Eradicate Poverty and Economic Disparity

Missiology and Global Christianity

Tracie L. Alston

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

African American Pentecostal Women in International Missions: An In-Depth study of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., Women International Missionaries

Kae Yong Lee

Doctoral Thesis With Distinction:

The Cultural Conflicts and the Resolution between Korean Senior Missionaries and Second-Generation Missionaries at University Bible Fellowship in the United States

Laura Karin Osborne

Doctoral Thesis:

"A Safe Place to Land:" an Evaluation of International Campus Ministry and Its Impact

Grace Eunhae Park

Doctoral Thesis:

Impact of Inductive Bible Study on Spiritual Identity Formation: A Study of G.L.E.F (2018-2023) Participants Among M.K.'s and S.G.M.'s in University Bible Fellowship Ministry

Transformational Preaching

Kip D. Johnson

Doctoral Thesis:

The Resilience of Urban Black Pastors in Central Virginia in the Midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Wendell Mickens

Doctoral Thesis:

Generationalism: Finding a Bridge between Generations in a Traditional Black Baptist Church

James E. Prioleau, II

Doctoral Thesis:

Taking It to the Streets: Spreading the Gospel Beyond the Walls in the Digital World

DUAL DEGREE MASTER OF DIVINITY & MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

Nkiru Natalie Menakaya *Magna Cum Laude*
Kelly Jacquinn Williams *Cum Laude*

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Timothy Lamont Danzey
Edwin Deus
Jason Jennings
Seong Jin Kim *Magna Cum Laude*
Kenyetta E. Morris

Robert J. Petillo *Summa Cum Laude*
Robert C. Rawls
Christopher M. Roberson *Cum Laude*
Heather Lea Wilson *Magna Cum Laude*

MASTER OF ARTS IN PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

Lee Ann Newland *Magna Cum Laude*
Terry S. Whigham

MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Wilma L. Porter *Cum Laude*

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Marilyn A. Correa
Jesse Santiago
Linease Bethea
Teresa Blackwell
Andrew Bernard Carter
Jeanette Faust
Kevin Ford

Daryl Harris
Noreen Heard
Justan Mitchell
James R. Porter
Donovan Fitzgerald Tindell
Ulysses DeLacy Tuff

CERTIFICATE OF READINESS FOR EXAMINATION (RCA)

Robert Barton
Iorwuese Ifan
Heather Lea Wilson

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elder Valerie Arthur, DMin
(MDiv 2011; DMin 2016)

Christ Centered In The City
International Ministries
Trenton, NJ

Rev. Angelita Clifton, DMin

Associate Minister,
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit, NJ

Rev. Samuel Cruz, PhD
(MA 1994)

Associate Professor of Religion and Society,
Union Theological Seminary City of New York
Senior Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church
Brooklyn, NY

Rev. Henry P. Davis III, DMin
(MDiv 1988)

Senior Pastor,
First Baptist Church of Highland Park
Landover, MD

Rev. Gregory Dunlap
(MDiv 2005)

Senior Pastor,
Woodcliff Community Reformed Church
North Bergen, NJ

Rev. Cambria Kaltwasser, PhD

Assistant Professor of Biblical and
Theological Studies,
Northwestern College
Orange City, IA

Rev. Denise Kingdom, DMin

Pastor of Mobilization and Renewal,
Mars Hill Bible Church
Grandville & Grand Rapids, MI
RCA Global Missions Coordinator for
South Africa

Therese A. McCarty, PhD

John Prior Lewis '41 Professor of Economics
Emerita, Union College
Schenectady, NY

Felicia McGinty, EdD

Director of Engagement and Outreach
Higher Education Resource Services (HERS)
Somerset, NJ

Rev. Steven Miller, EdD
(MDiv 1973)

Classis Minister,
Classis of Delaware–Raritan, Retired
South Plainfield, NJ

Elder Michael Morris

Park Hills Community Church
Los Angeles, CA

Rev. Abigail Norton-Levering
(MDiv 2004)

Synod Ministries Coordinator,
Regional Synod of Albany (RCA)
Albany, NY

Rev. Zachary K. Pearce

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
Port Jervis, NY

Rev. Albert Plat

Pastor, Athabasca Reformed Congregation
Athabasca, Alberta, Canada

Rev. Wilfredo Rodriguez
(MDiv 1994)

US Navy Chaplain Commander, Retired
Minister of Word & Sacrament, RCA, Retired
Metuchen, NJ

Rev. Ming Chen (Grace) Lo Rohrer

Pastor, Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
Atlanta, GA

Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Testa

Director of Women's Transformation and
Leadership, Reformed Church in America
New Brunswick, NJ

Rev. Anthony Vis

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

Ex-Officio

Rev. Eddy Alemán

General Secretary,
Reformed Church in America
Grand Rapids, MI

Rev. Micah L. McCreary, PhD

President,
New Brunswick Theological Seminary
New Brunswick, NJ

*Congratulations
to the
Class of 2024!*

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 and identity 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.

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 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.

NEW BRUNSWICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



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