

# Sixty-Second COMMENCEMENT



## Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Saturday, May 18, 2024  
11 a.m.  
Dickinson Courtyard

# ORDER OF EVENTS

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Prelude		The Classic Brass Quintet
* Processional	“Trumpet Voluntary”	Clarke
Welcome and Invocation		President Jay Rundell
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 1</i>	See program
Greeting		Board of Trustees Chair Cyndy Garn
Introduction of the Speaker		President Rundell
Address		Bishop Gregory V. Palmer
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 2</i>	
Conferring of Degrees on the Class of 2024		President Rundell and Dean Valerie Bridgeman
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 3</i>	
Presentation of Diplomas	President Rundell	and Dean Bridgeman
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 4</i>	
Closing Comments and Benediction		President Rundell
* Recessional	“Rondeaux”	Mouret

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\* *You are invited to rise in body or spirit.*

# THE CLASS OF 2024

*The following list of graduates is tentative. Degrees are conferred only to those candidates who have successfully completed all requirements.*

*Concentrations and specializations are noted under individual graduates' names.*

† *Identifies graduates receiving dual degrees.*

## DEGREE CANDIDATES

### Doctor of Ministry

Sean Patrick Barrett

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

Project: *Small Group Ministry to Navigate a Liminal Space*

Jennifer Lynne Eastman Hinkle

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

Project: *The Impact of Play on Vocational Identity  
and Spiritual Well-Being in Clergy*

Edward K. Lewis Sr.

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

Project: *The Impact of White Christian Religious Supremacy  
upon the Bronzeville Community*

Amy Avery Weese

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

Project: *Navigating the Transition from Shame to Vulnerability:  
A Qualitative Study of Clients' Experiences*

# Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries

Pastoral Care and Counseling Track

Rae Hamilton

## Master of Arts in Practical Theology

Heather Ann Neal Bennett

*Ecology and Justice*

Carolyn Sarah Kwon

Yi Rao

## Master of Arts in Social Justice

Mackalyn Grace Figgins †

Nicole Rae Guthrie

Ingrid Janse-Wood

## Master of Theological Studies

Timothy Michael Wood

*Theological Studies*

## Master of Divinity

Adam Lawrence Barborich

*Biblical Languages and Texts*

Laura Ann Bergman

*Chaplaincy*

Kathryn Shelby Bouldin

Robert Dean Cole

Nichole Lee Fewell

Mackalyn Grace Figgins †

Melissa Greenleaf Flinn

David Alan Hamer

Jeffrey John Hodge

Victoria Lambert

*Chaplaincy*

*Ecology and Justice*

Bonnie Joy Massey

*Chaplaincy*

*Interreligious Contexts*

Carla E. Miner

Douglas A. Pummell

Vincent Alexander Slocum

Martina L. Thompson

*All are invited to a reception in Dunn Dining Hall following the ceremony.*

# SENIOR AWARDS

Announced at Closing Convocation May 7, 2024

Baccalaureate Speaker	Mackalyn Grace Figgins
Bishop Judith Craig Prize in Christian Education	Kathryn Shelby Bouldin
Fellowship Seminarian Award	Mackalyn Grace Figgins
Gindlesperger Bible Award	Melissa Greenleaf Flinn
Hoyt Hickman Award	Mackalyn Grace Figgins
Pastoral Counseling Service and Achievement Award	Rae Hamilton
Servant Leader Award	Yi Rao
C. Everett and Mary Milburn Tilson Social Justice Grant	Kathryn Shelby Bouldin
David Wilcox Leadership Award	David Alan Hamer and Victoria Lambert
Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics	Bonnie Joy Massey

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Bishop Gregory V. Palmer** has served as episcopal leader of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2012. Elected to the episcopacy in 2000, he served in Iowa for eight years and Illinois for four years before coming to West Ohio.

Bishop Palmer, a Philadelphia native, earned his Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School and his undergraduate degree from George Washington University. He served congregations in northeastern Ohio and was superintendent of the Youngstown District of the East Ohio Conference.

He served as president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry from 2004 to 2008 and president of the Council of Bishops from 2008 to 2010. He has been an MTSO trustee since 2012.

## COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

**Faculty Marshal:** Joon-Sik Park, Professor in the E. Stanley Jones Chair of World Evangelism

**Student Marshals:** Catherine Heck and Christopher Scoby

# PRAISE THE SOURCE OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Praise the source of faith and learning  
that has sparked and stoked the mind  
with a passion for discerning  
how the world has been designed.  
Let the sense of wonder flowing  
from the wonders we survey  
keep our faith forever growing  
and renew our need to pray:

God of wisdom, we acknowledge  
that our science and our art  
and the breadth of human knowledge  
only partial truth impart.  
Far beyond our calculation  
lies a depth we cannot sound  
where your purpose for creation  
and the pulse of life are found.

May our faith redeem the blunder  
of believing that our thought  
has displaced the grounds for wonder  
which the ancient prophets taught.  
May our learning curb the error  
which unthinking faith can breed  
lest we justify some terror  
with an antiquated creed.

As two currents in a river  
fight each other's undertow  
till converging they deliver  
one coherent steady flow,  
blend, O God, our faith and learning  
till they carve a single course,  
till they join as one, returning  
praise and thanks to you, their Source.

WORDS: Thomas H. Troeger  
MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard