

Fifty-Ninth COMMENCEMENT



Methodist Theological School
in Ohio

Saturday, May 22, 2021
11 a.m.

ORDER OF EVENTS

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 David Wilcox
Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 2</i>	
Conferring of Degrees on the Class of 2021		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	“Rondeau”	Mouret

Faculty Marshal: Dr. Elaine Nogueira-Godsey, Assistant Professor
of Theology, Ecology and Race

THE CLASS OF 2021

The following list of graduates is tentative. Degrees are conferred and certificates awarded 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

Mariah Hayden

Ecology and Justice Ministry

Project: *Not Just Food, Not Just Hunger:*

An Eco-womanist Hermeneutic Meets Christian Mission

Robert Dale Musick

Leadership for Transformational Change

Project: *Hollering Theology: Discovering Appalachian Liberation Theology and Its Power to Transform Students at the University of Pikeville*

Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries

Pastoral Care and Counseling Track

Margaret Laura Hale †

James R.M. Lance †

Master of Arts in Practical Theology

Leticia Damian

Parish and Community Ministry

Kelley Alexis Fox †

Queer Feminist

and Womanist Studies

Anthony L. Giannamore

Parish and Community Ministry

Michele Marie Luebbers

Disability and Ministry

Jon Eric Osmundson

Chaplaincy

John Ryan Sibray

Parish and Community Ministry

Rebekah Leigh Sperling †

Parish and Community Ministry

Jacob C. Taylor †

Ecology and Justice

Master of Arts in Social Justice

Alexander Sekou Clemetson
Kelley Alexis Fox †

Austen-Monet McClendon
Rebekah Leigh Sperling †

Master of Theological Studies

Bill Kennedy IV
Biblical Studies

Jacob C. Taylor †
Theological Studies

Master of Divinity

Wendy Bartlett
Interreligious Contexts
Unitarian Universalist Studies
Marcus J. Burden
Mary Katherine Collins
Della R. Fonseca
Crystal Fox
Biblical Languages and Texts
Brenda E. Francis
Heather Ann Gillen
Margaret Laura Hale †
Taylor Johnston
Ecology and Justice
Lucy Spieldenner Kelly
Ecology and Justice
James R.M. Lance †
Sarah Elizabeth Lowden
Audrey Mangum
Ronald N. Marcoux Jr.
Jennifer L. Miller
Black Church
and African Diaspora Studies
Bellarmee Lumbwe Milosi
Biblical Languages and Texts

Noah Mitchell
Black Church
and African Diaspora Studies
Hank Osmundson
Feminist and Womanist Studies
Jessica Schnegg
Social Justice
Shannon M. Thiebeau
Feminist and Womanist Studies
Jeffrey Montrese White Jr.
Black Church
and African Diaspora Studies
Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Jennifer Lynn Whitmore
Shing-Chung Josh Wong
Chaska Saloma Eshleman Yoder
Chaplaincy
Feminist and Womanist Studies
Philip Timothy Yoder
Black Church
and African Diaspora Studies
Feminist and Womanist Studies
Jason Scott Young
Interreligious Contexts

SENIOR AWARDS

Announced at Closing Convocation May 11, 2021

Baccalaureate Speaker	Chaska Saloma Eshleman Yoder
Bishop Judith Craig Prize in Christian Education	Taylor Johnston
Charles A. Dice Fellowship	Austen-Monet McClendon
Fellowship Seminarian Award	Jeffrey Montrese White Jr.
Gindlesperger Bible Award	Bellarmee Lumbwe Milosi
Matey Janata Freedwomen Award	Lucy Spieldenner Kelly
Pastoral Counseling Service and Achievement Award	Margaret Laura Hale
Servant Leader Award	Jeffrey Montrese White Jr.
C. Everett and Mary Milburn Tilson Social Justice Grant	Kelley Alexis Fox
David Wilcox Leadership Award	Jason Scott Young
Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics	Jacob C. Taylor

ABOUT VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT

Throughout much of the fall and the entire Spring Semester of the 2020-21 academic year, MTSO held classes remotely in an effort to keep students, employees, their families and our community safe from the coronavirus. Consistent with the safety protocols we established, we now bring the year to a close with our second and — we hope — last virtual commencement.

The graduates we honor today persevered through these seasons of disruption, thriving in remote classes and finding new ways to connect as part of a distanced academic community. The vocational paths for which they've prepared will require resilience, creativity and an outsized devotion to the welfare of others. They chose during their time on this campus, whether in person or in spirit, to hone those traits in ways that will enrich the lives of those they serve for many years to come.

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