

# Sixty-First COMMENCEMENT



## Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Saturday, May 20, 2023

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	“Stir the Waters”	Jeff Woods
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 2</i>	
Presentation of Academic Certificate		Dean Valerie Bridgeman
Conferring of Degrees on the Class of 2023		President Rundell and Dean 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 2023

*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.*

## CERTIFICATE CANDIDATE

Deacon Studies

Brian Douglas Sheetz

## DEGREE CANDIDATES

Doctor of Ministry

Matthew Wesley Johnson

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

*Project: Systems Informed Missional Experimentation:  
Finding Love at the Laundromat*

Master of Arts in Counseling Ministries

Pastoral Care and Counseling Track

James R. M. Lance

Seth D. Stout

Master of Arts in Practical Theology

Elizabeth Ann Miller

*Spirituality and Interfaith  
Communities*

Tammy Warner Palermo

*Parish and Community  
Ministry*

## Master of Arts in Social Justice

Lisa Michelle Clark  
Guenivere England

Torrianna LaKiesha Foster

## Master of Theological Studies

Ajanaé Dawkins  
*Theological Studies*

Katilin Glover  
*Ethical Studies*

Susan Warwick Fisher †  
*Biblical Studies*

## Master of Divinity

Bethani Linette Aiello  
*Chaplaincy*

Elizabeth Ann Irwin

Kayla Aspeslagh

Karen Lynn Jensen-Kinney

Amy C. Barr

Jebason Frank Samuel John Paul

Sarah E. Bell

Sujin Kim

Cathy Barr Courtice  
*Ecology and Justice*

Meredith Johnson Krueger  
*Biblical Languages and Texts*

Leticia Damian

Mark J. Kwiatkowski

Ashton Scott Dupler

Mercy N. Mbugua

Gabrielle Fanese Fields  
*Biblical Languages and Texts*  
*Ecology and Justice*

Justin McCall

Gregory L. Menssen  
*Biblical Languages and Texts*

Susan Warwick Fisher †  
*Biblical Languages and Texts*

Kimberly S. Metzger

Carrie Jo Schwab

Rae Hamilton

Anika-Kafi Summers

Nicole E. Hogarth  
*Biblical Languages and Texts*  
*Ecology and Justice*

Jacob Ray Tipantasig-Wolverton

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

# SENIOR AWARDS

Announced at Closing Convocation May 9, 2023

Baccalaureate Speaker	Nicole E. Hogarth
Bishop Judith Craig Prize in Christian Education	Ashton Scott Dupler
Fellowship Seminarian Award	Gregory L. Menssen
Gindlesperger Bible Award	Susan Warwick Fisher
Hoyt Hickman Award	Ashton Scott Dupler
Pastoral Counseling Service and Achievement Award	Seth D. Stout
Servant Leader Award	Gabrielle Fanese Fields
C. Everett and Mary Milburn Tilson Social Justice Grant	Guenivere England
David Wilcox Leadership Award	Carrie Jo Schwab
Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics	Sujin Kim

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Dr. Jeff Woods** is general secretary of American Baptist Churches USA, leading the denomination's 1.3 million members and 5,000 congregations. Prior to his election, he served as pastor of four Indiana congregations and in denominational leadership roles. Since 2006, he has taught Doctor of Ministry courses at MTSO, where he serves as a fully affiliated faculty member.

Dr. Woods earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1987, majoring in both higher education administration and educational inquiry methodology. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a B.S. in management and statistics from Purdue University.

## COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

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

**Student Marshals:** Angelique Nyampundu and Yi Rao

# 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