

# Sixty-Third COMMENCEMENT



Methodist Theological School  
in Ohio

Saturday, May 17, 2025  
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” See program Verse 1
Greeting	Board of Trustees Chair Jeffrey Taylor
Introduction of the Speaker	President Rundell
Address	Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” Verse 2
Conferring of Degrees on the Class of 2025	President Rundell and Dean Valerie Bridgeman
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” Verse 3
Presentation of Diplomas	President Rundell and Dean Bridgeman
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” Verse 4
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 2025

*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

David Oliver Kling

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

*Project: Sacramental Rebels: Exploring the Appeal  
of the Independent Sacramental Movement*

Jawwad J. Love

*Global Christian Leadership and the Urban Context*

*Project: A New Rising: Exploring the Impact of the Soko Model  
on the Economic and Community Development Initiatives  
at Covenant United Methodist Church*

Adam Boone Sornchai

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

*Project: Sharing the Good News Amid Distortions of the Gospel:  
A Theological Exploration of Evangelism with Faithful Deconstructors*

# Master of Arts in Practical Theology

Einoth Elias †

# Master of Arts in Public Theology

Hae Seon Lee

# Master of Arts in Social Justice

Elisebeth Connolly

Sheltnire Boyer

Tracy Vincent Chambers †

Einoth Elias †

Max K. Mitchell †

# Master of Theological Studies

Adam Lawrence Barborich

*Biblical Studies*

Daniel Louis Heck

*Biblical Studies*

Elaveni Panneerselvam

*Interreligious Contexts*

William Richard Summers

*Biblical Studies*

Jaylon Kaleel Tasby †

*Ethical Studies*

# Master of Divinity

Edmund Layton Bach

Tracy Vincent Chambers †

Vicki Leigh Esh

Jennifer Lynn Bach Gordon

Isaac Leon Hammond

Beth W. Jensen

Melissa Christine Jeter

David Clifford Andrew Kuehl

*Ecology and Justice*

Kyra Helen Leckrone

Julie Knauff Mislansky

*Chaplaincy*

Max K. Mitchell †

Tammy Warner Palermo

Monica Sue Salvo

James Alan Schnell

Jaylon Kaleel Tasby †

*Feminist and Womanist Studies*

Noa Jean Weatherwax

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

# SENIOR AWARDS

Announced at Closing Convocation May 6, 2025

Baccalaureate Speaker	Jaylon Kaleel Tasby
Bishop Judith Craig Prize in Christian Education	Jaylon Kaleel Tasby
Fellowship Seminarian Award	Tracy Vincent Chambers
Gindlesperger Bible Award	William Richard Summers
Hoyt Hickman Award	Jaylon Kaleel Tasby
Pastoral and Spiritual Care Achievement Award	Julie Knauff Mislansky
Servant Leader Award	Hae Seon Lee
C. Everett and Mary Milburn Tilson Social Justice Grant	David Clifford Andrew Keuhl
David Wilcox Leadership Award	Tracy Vincent Chambers
Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics	Max K. Mitchell

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Bishop Hee-Soo Jung** has led the Ohio Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church since 2024. Elected to the episcopacy in 2004, he served as bishop for eight years in the Northern Illinois Conference and 12 years in Wisconsin before his arrival in Ohio, where he presides over the East Ohio and West Ohio conferences.

Among his prominent roles within the denomination, Bishop Jung has served as president of the General Board of Global Ministries, chair of the UM Korean National Plan and a member of the Bread for the World Board of Directors.

## COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

**Faculty Marshal:** Timothy L. Van Meter, Associate Professor  
in the Alford Chair of Christian Education and Youth Ministry

**Student Marshals:** Kelly Collins and Maureen Mulievi Sikolia

# 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