

# Sixty-Fourth COMMENCEMENT



## Methodist Theological School in Ohio

Saturday, May 23, 2026

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 Jeffrey Taylor
Introduction of the Speaker		President Rundell
Address		Emanuel Cleaver III
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 2</i>	
Conferring of Degrees on the Class of 2026		President Rundell and Acting Dean Lisa Allen-McLaurin
* Hymn	“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning” <i>Verse 3</i>	
Presentation of Diplomas		President Rundell and Acting Dean Allen-McLaurin
* 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 2026

*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

Anna Catherine Guillozet

*Leadership for Transformational Change*

*Project: Take Thou Authority: A Study of Bodily Autonomy  
and Body Right with United Methodist Clergy*

Kenya Monique Lovell

*Global Christian Leadership and the Urban Context*

*Project: Reimagining Leadership: A Postcolonial Hermeneutic  
of Sisterhood, Community, and Success for Women  
of African Descent in the Black Church and HBCUs*

### Master of Arts in Practical Theology

Catherine Mae Heck

Jennifer Lea Sayers

Jennifer Noricks

### Master of Arts in Public Theology

Daniel Heck

## Master of Arts in Social Justice

Jolendra Cole

Elise D. Garber

Colleen Marguerite Oakes

Shannon Victoria Pitorak

Sheryl Lynne Pryor

Shema Roberts †

Jared Eugene Roper

Kathryn Stephens

Ronicesha C. Wearren

## Master of Theological Studies

Kelly Collins †

*Theological Anthropology*

Adrienne Ashley Fowler

*Biblical Studies*

Rosemary Gibson †

*Feminist and Womanist Studies*

Kristen Alane Herbst †

*Ecotheology*

Kenneth Stephen Lancaster

*Black Church Studies*

HaeSeon Lee

*Historical Studies*

Shema Roberts †

*Ethical Studies*

## Master of Divinity

Abigail Elizabeth Adams

Kelly Collins †

Pamela Ann Connolly

Rosemary Gibson †

Kayla Ann Grehl

Isaac Leon Hammond

Kristen Alane Herbst †

Daniel C. Hickman

William Humphrey

Melissa Christine Jeter

Tatenda Naume Juma

*Ecology and Justice*

Jonah Mitchell

Angelique Nyampundu

Jacqueline P. Richardson

Margaret Rodgers

Maureen Mulievi Sikolia

Paisha D. Thomas

Elizabeth Kathryn Trigg

Kelly Venturini

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

# 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

# SENIOR AWARDS

Announced at Closing Convocation May 5, 2026

Baccalaureate Speaker	Kelly Collins
Bishop Judith Craig Prize in Christian Education	Margaret Rodgers
Charles A. Dice Fellowship	Kelly Collins
Fellowship Seminarian Award	Tatenda Naume Juma
Gindlesperger Bible Award	Kristen Alane Herbst
Hoyt Hickman Award	Maureen Mulievi Sikolia
Matey Janata Freedwomen Award	Kelly Collins
Pastoral and Spiritual Care Achievement Award	Angelique Nyampundu
Servant Leader Award	Angelique Nyampundu
C. Everett and Mary Milburn Tilson Social Justice Grant	Elise D. Garber and Shema Roberts
David Wilcox Leadership Award	Tatenda Naume Juma
Ronald L. Williams Book Prize in Theology and Ethics	Kelly Collins

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Emanuel Cleaver III**, a dynamic preacher, author and advocate for justice, has served as senior pastor of St. James United Methodist Church in Kansas City since 2009. He serves on the Board of Trustees of MTSO, where he received a Master of Divinity degree.

In 2013, Dr. Cleaver received the Mount Alumni Award for Distinguished Service, MTSO's highest honor for former students. He earned a bachelor's degree from Philander Smith College and Doctor of Ministry from Saint Paul School of Theology.

## COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS

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

**Student Marshals:** Madison Cartnal and Paul Mulungi