

# 2023

# COMMENCEMENT

May 20, 2023





The graduates of 2023 gifted the Central Seminary faculty with self-care mini-grants in appreciation for their support through and beyond the obstacles that challenged students as they worked toward the completion of their degree programs. The funds given by the Class of 2023 were matched and multiplied by a generous donor. Thank you to the Class of 2023 and the Class Gift Committee: Debbie Giese, Lauren Ng, and Cory Seibel.

# Central Seminary 121st Commencement May 20, 2023

## GATHERING MUSIC & PROCESSIONAL

### WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Pamela R. Durso  
*President*

### INVOCATION

Dr. Samuel Park  
*Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Contextual Ministry  
Director of Korean Programs*

### “YOU ARE SPECIAL”

Grace Park  
*Accompanied by Minjun Lee*

### SCRIPTURE

Taegong Ban, DMin '23, Korean  
Brenda K. Watson-Hill, MACO '23, English  
Eden Char, DMin '23, Burmese

### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Pamela R. Durso

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rev. Dr. Marvin A. McMickle

### RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Pamela R. Durso





**PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES**

Rev. Dr. Robert E. Johnson  
*Provost and Dean of the Faculty*  
*Professor of Christian Heritage*

Rev. James R. Cook  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

**CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES**

Pamela R. Durso

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF CERTIFICATE GRADUATES**

Hana You  
*Registrar*

**PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMA CANDIDATES**

Robert E. Johnson  
James R. Cook

**CONFERRING OF DIPLOMAS**

Pamela R. Durso

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DIPLOMA GRADUATES**

Hana You

**PRESENTATION OF MASTER OF ARTS CANDIDATES**

Robert E. Johnson  
James R. Cook

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Pamela R. Durso

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES**

Hana You

**PRESENTATION OF MASTER OF DIVINITY CANDIDATES**

Robert E. Johnson  
James R. Cook

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Pamela R. Durso

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF MASTER OF DIVINITY GRADUATES**

Hana You

**PRESENTATION OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY CANDIDATES**

Robert E. Johnson  
James R. Cook

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES**

Pamela R. Durso

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY GRADUATES**

Hana You

**ACADEMIC HOODING**

Dr. John Park  
*Director of Doctor of Ministry Program  
Des Peres Chair of Congregational Health*

**PRESENTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARD**

Pamela R. Durso

**PRESENTATION OF CLASS OF 2023 GIFT**

Class Gift Committee

**GRADUATE LITANY (REFER TO PAGE 4)**

Melanie Johnson, MDiv '23  
Sang Eun Lee, MDiv '23

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND BENEDICTION**

Robert E. Johnson

**RECESSIONAL "BE THOU MY VISION"**





## GRADUATE LITANY

Together we have survived and often we have thrived amid years of Zoom classes, late night paper writing, and reading all the books. Our tenacity has led us to this day.

**ALL: With one another, we have experienced empathy, growth, and hospitality. We have become community.**

We have journeyed as learners, teachers, students, and friends. We have passed from clarity to confusion and from confusion to clarity, and God has been with us all along the way.

**ALL: We leave now to establish new ministries and to renew old ministries. We go with the expectation that God will go with and continue to guide us.**

We move toward the unknown but with faith in things not seen. May God sustain us as we walk into our futures.

**ALL: We are forever part of the continuing spirit of the Central community. We will pray faithfully for Central's students, faculty, staff, and leadership even as they faithfully pray for us. May God continue to bless Central.**

We will hold close the relationships we have formed at Central in memory and in spirit. We will faithfully pray for and encourage one another in the years to come.

**ALL: We will take what we have seen, heard, experienced, and learned, and we will use it to strengthen God's good work wherever we may be.**

**ALL: May God's kin-dom come and God's will be done on earth as in heaven. Amen.**

# Candidates for Graduation

## CERTIFICATE OF MINISTRY STUDIES

Chi Sa Bae	Lah Htoo	Ling Gar Moo	Naw Mu Sha
Naw Mu Chaw	May Htoo	Nay Kri Moo	Hay Soe
Mu Dah	Nue Htoo	Ywa Pa Moo	Paw Moh Nay Thah
Hser Wah Doh	Pleh Htoo	Eh Paw	Aung Tun Tun
Kyaw Eh	Rinna Htoo	Eh Klu Paw	Paw Blut Wah
We Eh	Saw Sai Kay Htoo	Kler Tha Paw	Tha Wah
Gaw Gaw	Hser Ku Kaw	Lay Doh Paw	
Bway Gay	Dah Lay	Sha Bway Paw	
Hei Gay	Ku Lu	Shee Ra Paw	
Mu Gay	Yue Mi	Sui Paw	
Hae N Sha Htoo	Gay Ra Sho Moo	Thaw Thee Paw	
Ko Ko Htoo	Hser Gay Moo	Eh Play	

## CERTIFICATE IN CHAPLAINCY

Cynthia Baker (Professional)  
Nancy Marie Nemeth (Professional)

## CERTIFICATE IN PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

Dan Chadwick (Professional)  
Deborah Giese (Graduate)  
Megan Grigorian (Professional)

Gin Khan Mang (Professional)  
Toni Renee Page (Graduate)  
Ashanti Spears (Professional)

## DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Yingying Chen	Sun Joong Jeong	Sher Kpaw Shi
Yunseok Cho	Hoseong Lee	Kyungjin Uoo
Myeongsuk Ha	Jaeyoun Moh	Jung Ae Woo
Eui Jeong Jang	Jungho Park	



## MASTER OF ARTS IN MISSIONAL CHURCH STUDIES

Ukju Kim  
Yongtae Kim  
Young Soo Kim  
Inja Park

Hee Su Ra  
Hyeonmo Song

## MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGICAL STUDIES)

Tluang Za Thang  
Taylor Drew Qualls

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Claire Chadwick  
Cory Lane Seibel  
Brenda K. Watson-Hill

## MASTER OF CHRISTIAN CARE & COUNSELING

Taeyoung Hur  
Eunkyung Lee  
Hyo Jung Suh

## MASTER OF DIVINITY

Sang Hee Choi  
Jennifer Baergen Davis  
Christopher James Duffie  
Deborah Giese  
Sujung Hong

Melanie Ann Johnson  
Yeon Kyung Jun  
Hyun Jung Kim  
Ohyeon Kwon  
Jisung Lee

Sang Eun Lee  
Janet Hilliard Pace  
Toni Renee Page  
Terrence D. Sims  
Jungkwon Son

Eun Ji Song  
Jihwan Youn

## DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Hla Aung  
Taegong Ban (Calvin)  
Eden Char  
Paul Keun Ho Choi  
Seong Yeol Choi (Calvin)  
Hoon Joo  
Hyeong-Kwon Kang (Calvin)  
Saw Kaw Khu  
Michelle Kim  
Sam Kim

Namil Kim (Calvin)  
Taejin Kim (Calvin)  
Mira Kim (Calvin)  
Sunggo Kim (Calvin)  
Tu Lamung  
Jong Sun Lee  
Weongeun Lee (Calvin)  
Hyeon Ho Lee (Calvin)  
Jason M. Mack  
Gin Khan Mang '22 (MIT)

JiHoon Moon  
Salai Aung Myint Myat '22 (MIT)  
Seng Naw (MIT)  
Lauren Lisa Ng  
Man Sik Oh (Calvin)  
Changwon Seo  
Ro Lian Thang  
Lai Uk Thang  
Changsu You (Calvin)  
Kyun Woo '21





## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER REV. DR. MARVIN A. MCMICKLE

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Dr. Marvin A. McMickle is a graduate of Aurora University in Illinois with a B.A. in Philosophy. His alma mater also awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and completed two additional years of graduate study at Columbia University in New York. Dr. McMickle earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey, and was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Payne Theological Seminary in Wilberforce, Ohio awarded him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in 2010.

Dr. McMickle was ordained to the Christian ministry at Abyssinian Baptist Church of New York City, where he was on the pastoral staff from 1972-1976 before serving churches in New Jersey and Ohio. During his time in Ohio, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Cleveland State University in Cleveland, president of the Cleveland NAACP and Urban League, and president of the Shaker Heights Board of Education.

Dr. McMickle served as Professor of Homiletics at Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio from 1996-2011, and was named Professor Emeritus and faculty upon his retirement. In the winter semester of 2009, he was Visiting Professor of Preaching at Yale University Divinity School. Named the 12th President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity, he served in that role from 2011-2019.

The author of 18 books, Dr. McMickle has also written dozens of articles that regularly appear in professional journals and magazines. He is a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, and an active member of the Progressive National Convention and American Baptist Churches-USA.





## HONORING THE SERVICE AND SCHOLARSHIP OF REV. ROBERT E. JOHNSON, PH.D.

Rev. Dr. Robert E. (Bob) Johnson, Central Seminary's Provost and Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Christian Heritage, will retire on July 31, 2023. Dr. Johnson joined the Central community on June 1, 1998 and began as a faculty member in 1999. He was named Academic Dean in 2009 and promoted to Provost in 2015.

As a professor, Dr. Johnson's dedication to his students and their grounding in historical studies was demonstrated by the depth and breadth of his knowledge and instruction. He sought new and creative ways to engage students and was one of the first professors at Central to utilize technologically enhanced educational methods. Under Dr. Johnson's leadership as Dean of the Faculty, Central revitalized its mission, and enrollment increased from 120 in 2009 to 532 in the fall of 2022. This success stemmed in part from his vision for distance and virtual delivery of Central's educational programs. In addition, his diligent leadership and oversight resulted in successful accreditation processes with both the Association of Theological Schools and the Higher Learning Commission.

During his tenure, Dr. Johnson guided the school's increase in student diversity, expanded its outreach to under-served communities, formed partnerships with Myanmar Institute of Theology, the Judson Communities, and Calvin University in Seoul, South Korea, and created 9 teaching sites across the United States. He led the development of several new programs including the Korean Language Program, the Doctor of Ministry in Creative Leadership degree, the Doctor of Ministry in Missional Church Studies degree, and the Master of Arts in Counseling degree, the curricular revision of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Theological Studies programs, and two new certificate programs: a Certificate in Chaplaincy (2021) and a Certificate in Peace and Justice Ministry (2022).

"Over the past twenty-five years, Dr. Johnson has made substantial contributions to Central," said President Pamela R. Durso. "He has actively advanced our unique community of learning into seasons of growth and expansion. His innovative vision has been a gift to Central, pushing us to embrace new and cutting-edge pedagogical approaches and calling us to pay careful attention to the ever-changing needs of our students and the churches and ministries they serve. I am deeply grateful for his faithful service, his wisdom and insight, and his unwavering loyalty to and support of Central Seminary."

# 2023 Graduating Class Awards

## **FRANKLIN LORENZO STREETER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION**

Sang Eun Lee, Toni Page, Taylor Qualls

## **THE PHILIP WENDELL CRANNELL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PREACHING**

Debbie Giese, Terrence Sims, Jungkwon Son

## **HARVEY E. DANA AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WRITING**

Debbie Giese, Sun Joong Jeong

## **C. R. MCBRIDE AND KATHERINE WILLARD EDDY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY**

Jennifer Davis, Debbie Giese, Taeyoung Hur, Cory Seibel, Hyo Jung Suh, Brenda Watson-Hill

## **PEACE AND JUSTICE AWARD**

Janet Pace

## **ROBERT G. TORBET AWARD IN HISTORY**

Taylor Qualls

## **WHEELER-PROCTOR AWARD IN THEOLOGY**

Toni Page

