

177th

Commencement

of
Meadville Theological School
of Lombard College



Sunday, the 15th of May, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Church of Chicago
5650 South Woodlawn Avenue

177th Meadville Theological School of Lombard College's Commencement

Order of Service

Conducted by Doctor Elías Ortega and The Reverend Parisa Parsa

Prelude

The Oneness of Everything
by Jim Scott

Ashley Summers, bass; Carl Kennedy, piano; Juan Pastor, drums

Processional

Rank by Rank Again We Stand

Words from John Huntley Skrine, new words by Carl G. Seaburg
Music by Henry Walford Davies

*Rank by rank again we stand, from the four winds gathered hither.
Loud the hallowed walls demand whence we come and how, and whither.
From their stillness breaking clear, echoes wake to warn or cheer;
Higher truth from saint and seer call to us assembled here.*

*Ours the years' memorial store, honored days and names we reckon,
Days of comrades gone before, lives that speak and deeds that beckon.
From the dreaming of the night to the labors of the day,
Shines their everlasting light, guiding us upon our way.*

*Though the path be hard and long, still we strive in expectation,
Join we now their ageless song one with them in aspiration.
One in name, in honor one, guard we well the crown they won;
What they dreamed be ours to do, hope their hopes, and seal them true.*

Lighting the Chalice

The Reverend Eileen Wiviott, MDiv '17

Opening Words and Invocation

Doctor Elías Ortega and The Reverend Parisa Parsa

Choral Invocation

A Dedication

by Lea Morris

Jenn Wisegarver, soloist; Commencement Choir

*As for me and my house,
you'll find us serving **peace**,
Peace for all right now.*

(love, hope, joy)

Commencement Sermon

Of All the People, By All the People, For All the People

The Reverend Ashley Horan, MDiv '12

Offertory

Ms. Carla Kindt

Leaning On The Everlasting Arms

by Elisha Hoffman

Carl Kennedy, piano

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The Conferral of Honorary Degrees

Doctor of Humane Letters

Doctor Ursula Goodenough

Citation by Doctor Michael Hogue

Presented by Doctor Elías Ortega

Doctor of Divinity

Valarie Kaur

Presented by The Reverend Abhi Janamanchi, MDiv '98

Doctor of Divinity

Paula Cole Jones

Presented by The Reverend Doctor Nicole Kirk

Anthem

I Choose Love

Words by Lindy Thompson, Music by Mark A. Miller

Commencement Choir;

Ashley Summers, bass; Carl Kennedy, piano; Juan Pastor, drums

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.

In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,

I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, I will rise.

When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,

I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.

In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,

I await the sun again, I choose love.

Presentation of Prizes

The Reverend Doctor Nicole Kirk

Presentation of Candidates and Conferral of Degrees

Doctor Elías Ortega
and The Reverend Doctor Pamela Lightsey

Master of Arts (Religion)

Braeden Storkersen

Master of Arts in Leadership Studies

Anthony Manuel Cruz Pantojas

B.A., Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, Metro Campus
M.A., Andover Newton Theological School
Newton Centre

Ebony Tara Scurry Contreras Peace

B.A., Sweet Briar College
M.S., Johns Hopkins University

Devin Moss

James Asgeir Thor Struthers

B.A., University of Regina
J.D., University of Saskatchewan

Master of Divinity

Brigitte Helene Bechtold

License, University of Brussels
M.A., Michigan State University
Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Julia Catherine Jones

B.A., Penn State University
M.A., University of Maryland
M.A.T., Towson University

Joshua Lewis Berg

B.A., University of Michigan
M.B.A., Metropolitan College of New York

Carolyn Jill McEvoy

Lisa C. Moore

Lynne D. Ford

B.S., Florida State University
M.B.A., National University

Sarah Klinger Osborne

Carol Leslie Runnels

(Continues on the next page)

Catherine Trevor-Roberts
B.A., Principia College
M.A., SIT Graduate Institute, Brattleboro, VT

Vanessa Lynn Titang Williams
B.A., Smith College
M.S., Wheelock College

Elizabeth Kim Warman
B.A., Trinity University
M.A.T., Northeastern Illinois University

Ritual Calling of the Names

of the Graduating Classes of 2020 and 2021

The Reverends Connie Simon, MDiv '18, and Diana Davies, MDiv '17

Class of 2020

Master of Arts (Religion)

Barbara Anne Kilgore

Master of Arts in Leadership Studies

Phillip Shane Baber

Holly Fluty Dempsey

Zsolt Elekes

Chihiro Kase

Wendy Renee Tyree

Master of Divinity

Matthew William Aspin

Margalie Belizaire

M.S., Central Michigan University

Carin Marie Bringelson

B.A., Grinnell College
M.A., University of Wisconsin - Madison

Denise Marie Cawley

B.A., Alverno College

Kristina Marie Church

B.A., Trinity University
M.S.W., Columbia University

Jane Eileen Davis

Marianne K. DiBlasi

Nicholas Jacob Julius Filzen

B.A., Loyola Marymount University
M.Music., Manhattan School of Music

Rebecca Kathryn Gant

Andrea Celeste Hawkins-Kamper

Jennifer Beth Johnson

Friederike Kaufel

Mariela Perez-Simons

Lora Powell-Haney

Sarah Beth Skochko

Sky Allen Stewart

B.A., Knox College

Kristine K. Stuart

Class of 2021

Master of Arts (Religion)

Jeffery Allen Carmichael

B.A., University of Maine at Presque Isle

Monica Katheryne Kling-Garcia

B.A., Cardinal Stritch University

M.A., University of Bristol

Master of Arts

in Leadership Studies

Adetokunbo Ayoade Ayinde

Adeshile

B.A., Earlham College

Miranda Fey Lennox

Charles Wayne Loflin

B.A., Mississippi College

M.F.A., University of Louisville

Master of Divinity

Ali Kujichagulia Bell

M.S.W., University of Central Florida

Beyssa Buil

Dr. Omega Sunshine Burckhardt

B.A., Washington University in St. Louis

M.A., University of Kansas

Ph.D., University of Kansas

Jennifer Marie McCready

Juniper E. Meadows

A.S., Pellissippi State

B.S., East Tennessee State University

Jennifer Raffensperger

Elliot Snider

B.A., Willamette University

M.B.A., University of California San Diego

Dayna Marie Edwards

Dr. Laura E. Solomon

B.A., Goucher College

Psy.D., Wright State University

Spoken Prayer

The Reverend Julie Taylor

Choral Prayer

Life Calls Us On

Lyrics by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, DMin '80, Music by Jason Shelton
Commencement Choir;
Ashley Summers, bass; Carl Kennedy, piano; Juan Pastor, drums

*Here in rev'rence now we gather
For the blessings we have known,
With a pledge to one another
That we journey not alone.
Joy and sorrow make us wise,
Kin to all that lives and dies;
Love calls us on, Love calls us on.*

*Words and deeds of those before us
Waken here to keep us strong;
Blend our voices in the chorus
Of creation's living song.
Courage bids us lift our eyes
Upward to the shining skies;
Hope calls us on, Hope calls us on.*

*Loyal guides in love and duty
Lead us with a trusted light;
Blest are they whose inward beauty
Shows the path of truth and right.
Honor is their earthly prize;
By their work we realize,
Faith calls us on, Faith calls us on.*

*We have shared a radiant hour
When the truth has made us free,
And the spirit's gracious power
Dreamed of good that yet shall be.
Bright the path before us lies
Joyful pilgrims, now we rise;
Life calls us on! Life calls us on!*

Charge to the Graduates

Vanessa Williams and Carrie McEvoy
Class of 2022

Recessional

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

Arranged by Mary Allen Walden

*Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down.
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down.*

*Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!"
Since I laid my burden down.
Feel like shouting, "Hallelujah!"
Since I laid my burden down.*

*Life is sweeter, so much sweeter,
Since I laid my burden down.
Life is sweeter, so much sweeter,
Since I laid my burden down.*

*Feel like dancing, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down.
Feel like dancing, hallelujah!
Since I laid my burden down.*

*Love is shining all around me,
Since I laid my burden down.
Love is shining all around me,
Since I laid my burden down.*



Reception

Following Commencement in Hull Chapel

Participants

Thank you to all participants from the Board of Trustees

Marshal

The Reverend Doctor Nicole Kirk, Commencement Marshal

The Reverend Julie Taylor, Assistant Marshal

Music

Under the direction of Vickie Hellyer, Music Director at Unitarian Church of Evanston, the choral music today is performed by members of First Unitarian Church of Chicago, Second Unitarian Church of Chicago, Unitarian Church of Hinsdale, Unitarian Church of Evanston, DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva, with Carl Kennedy, piano; Ashley Summers, bass; Juan Pastor, drums.

Meadville Lombard Commencement Planning Committee

Barbara Baldwin, Faysha Crosbie, Tomo Hillbo,
Elena Maria Jimenez, Evy Lipecka, Kay Watson

Barbara Baldwin

Commencement Planning Committee
Development Assistant
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Faysha Crosbie

Commencement Planning Committee
Academic Services Assistant
Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Reverend Diana Davies

Board Vice Chair
Meadville Lombard Theological School
Minister, First Unitarian Church of Oklahoma City

Doctor Ursula Goodenough

Honorary Degree Recipient
Professor of Biology
Washington University in St. Louis

Vickie Hellyer

Music Director
Unitarian Church of Evanston

Tomo Hillbo

Commencement Planning Committee
Director of Communications
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Doctor Michael Hogue

Professor of Theology, Ethics, and
Philosophy of Religion
Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Reverend Ashley Horan

Organizing Strategy Director
Unitarian Universalist Association

The Reverend Abhi Janamanchi

Board Member, Meadville Lombard Theological School
Senior Minister, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

Elena Maria Jimenez

Commencement Planning Committee
Registrar, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Paula Cole Jones

Honorary Degree Recipient
Unitarian Universalist Lay Leader

Valarie Kaur

Honorary Degree Recipient
Civil Rights Activist, Lawyer, Filmmaker, Educator, Author

Carl Kennedy

Pianist, Associate Music Director
Second Unitarian Church of Chicago

Carla Kindt

Board Member
Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Reverend Doctor Nicole Kirk

Frank J. and Alice Schulman Professor of
Unitarian Universalist History
Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Reverend Doctor Pamela Lightsey

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
Associate Professor of Constructive Theology
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Evy Lipecka

Commencement Planning Committee
Director of Development
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Carrie McEvoy

Class of 2022
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Doctor Elías Ortega

President
Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Leadership
Meadville Lombard Theological School

The Reverend Parisa Parsa

Chair, Board of Trustees
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Juan Pastor

Drummer

The Reverend Connie Simon

Meadville Lombard Alum Association President
Minister, First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati

Ashley Summers

Bassist

The Reverend Julie Taylor

Senior Director of Contextual Ministry
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Kay Watson

Commencement Planning Committee
Executive Assistant to the President
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Vanessa Williams

Class of 2022
Meadville Lombard Theological School

Jenn Wisegarver

Solo Vocalist

The Reverend Eileen Wiviott

Chaplain, Meadville Lombard Theological School
Senior Minister, Unitarian Church of Evanston

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