



Commencement Convocation and Consecration Service

May 10, 2025
Third Week of Easter

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Dennis R. Edwards, Dean of the Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations,
North Park Theological Seminary, presiding

Please stand.

Prelude

Fantasy on “Come, Holy Spirit”

Franz Tunder

Processional

“Trumpet Overture”

Henry Purcell

Welcome and Invocation

Dennis R. Edwards

Call to Worship

Psalm 105: 1–5a

Dennis R. Edwards

Give thanks to the LORD and call upon God’s name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the peoples.

Sing to the LORD, sing praises,

and speak of all God’s marvelous works.

Glory in God’s holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Search for the LORD and the strength of the LORD;

Continually seek the face of God.

Remember the marvels God has done.

We will remember and give thanks to our God!

Opening Song

“You are Good”

Israel Houghton

Desiree Robertson, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

You are good

And your mercy endureth forever

Lord, you are good

And your mercy endureth forever

People from every nation and tribe

From generation to generation

We worship you

Hallelujah

Hallelujah

We worship you for who you are

You are good, all the time

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Service of the Word

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 29:11–14a

Michael Drake, Director of Graduate and Seminary Admission
North Park University

Please stand.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 18:1-8

Danny Martinez, Central Conference Superintendent
Evangelical Covenant Church

Please be seated.

Introduction of Speaker

Dennis R. Edwards

Commencement Address

"Remember to Whom You Belong"

Jolene Bergstrom Carlson

Please stand.

Responsive Song

"God Make Us Agents of Joyful Rebellion"

David D. Bjorlin

God, make us agents of joyful rebellion
called to resist sullen empires of fear,
fueled not by hatred but love for all people,
we stand united, assured you are here.

Some will be Marys who sing down injustice.
Others like Moses will speak truth to pow'r.
Few, like brave midwives, will shield life from evil.
All must be prophets awake for this hour.

Laughing in answer to snarling derision,
we dance to counter oppression and pain.
Feasting together despite our divisions,
we pledge ourselves to Christ's upside-down reign.

God, make us agents of joyful rebellion
called to sing out till our faith is made sight.
Fueled by the stories of saintly subversives,
we stand united, your justice our light.

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Academic Ceremony

Please be seated.

Awards Announcement

Hauna Ondrey, Associate Professor of Church History and Dean of Faculty

History

Theology

Greek

Hebrew

Cheryl Ann Takabayashi

Eugena V. Wright

Natalie Ann Swanson

Jeffrey Michael Parker Jr.

Exegesis Award

Innovative Ministry

Academic Excellence in Christian Formation

Andrew Holt Lauber

Tiana Elaine Coleman

Cheryl Ann Takabayashi

Presentation of the Ahnfeldt Medallion

Mary K. Surridge, President

North Park University

Congratulations to Graduates

Mary K. Surridge

Conferring of Degrees

Dennis R. Edwards and Hauna Ondrey

Consecration Service

The Prayers

Of Thanksgiving

Jose V. Garcia, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Of Intercession

Marie Bernadette Moore, Doctor of Ministry

Of Consecration

Deborah Ann Sims, Master of Arts in Restorative Justice Ministries

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Charge

Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President
Evangelical Covenant Church

Please stand.

Closing Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Benediction

Jolene Bergstrom Carlson

Recessional

“Choral Song”

Samuel Wesley

Postlude

“Alleluia”

Margrethe Hokanson

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

Speaker

Ordained to Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Church, Jolene Bergstrom Carlson's life passion is a desire to experience and live out Micah 6:8: "This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this, to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with your God."

Carlson began her professional journey teaching communication and theatre at community colleges in the 1960s, where she supported the development of racial reconciliation programming and materials. While raising her children, she became a parent educator, developing resources and training leaders to facilitate church, school, and community support groups.

A former pastor told her, "You are a pastor and won't be at peace until you go to seminary." This calling became apparent in midlife, so Carlson went even though few women were in pastoral leadership at the time. She studied at North Park Theological Seminary, Bethany Seminary, and the Lutheran School of Theology.

After seminary, Carlson served 10 years as senior pastor at Douglas Park Covenant Church, a small church in an immigrant community near the Cook County Department of Corrections. This position challenged her to grow in ways of justice and love beyond herself. She went on to serve as associate pastor at North Park Covenant Church and then in middle judicatory leadership as associate superintendent of the Central Conference for a decade, where she facilitated new church development. During this time, she received spiritual director training.

Carlson then became the executive director of Ministry Mentors, a national nonprofit that facilitated and trained pastors in peer mentoring and connected them with seminary students. Most recently, she served as interim pastor at Resurrection Covenant Church. In retirement, Carlson continues to serve where she believes she's meant to be.

She was married to the late Rev. Dr. Richard W. Carlson, former seminary professor, and has three adult children and six grandchildren.

Banner Bearer: Frederick Earl Wilson, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Crucifer: Natalie Swanson, Master of Divinity and Master of Nonprofit Administration

Marshal: David D. Bjorlin, Assistant Professor of Worship

Organ: Sharon Peterson, Seminary Organist

Musicians: Lynnea Miller, David D. Bjorlin, Desiree Robertson

Head Usher: Acacia Gin

Please refrain from flash photography during the service. Immediately following the service, North Park Theological Seminary invites you to a reception in Hamming Hall honoring the graduates.

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC REGALIA

Today's academic attire is a legacy of the Middle Ages. While defining status, they kept wearers warm in the period's drafty and unheated stone buildings. In modern times, the attire is no longer protective, but is still worn to signify the wearer's degree.

Unadorned bachelor's gowns are the simplest in design, master's gowns have half-sleeves, and doctoral gowns are distinguishable by their velvet facing and three velvet chevrons on the sleeve. The velvet may be black or reflect the color of the wearer's degree.

You will notice some faculty are more colorfully attired. These gowns have traditionally denoted degrees from European universities, where each institution prescribes its regalia. In recent years, however, American institutions have increasingly departed from black and adopted more colorful garb for doctoral degrees.

The academic hood's size and velvet trim color reflect the wearer's degree and the institution from which they earned it. At North Park, both graduates and faculty wear hoods. The degree colors commonly found at North Park are:

Apricot	Nursing
Brown	Fine Arts
Dark Blue	Philosophy
Drab	Business Administration, Economics, Management
Gold	Science
Green	Medicine
Light Blue	Education
Peacock Blue	Community Development
Pink	Music
Purple	Law
Scarlet	Theology or Divinity
White	Arts and Letters

Some graduates also have gold cords around their necks, indicating honors. One cord indicates honors (a 3.50 cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale), and two denote high honors (a 3.75 cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale).

The medallion the university president traditionally wears contains the North Park University seal, the symbol of the presidential office. The Celtic cross the seminary dean wears was presented to him as a symbol of his office at his installation.

The order of precedence in academic processions generally places those of the highest rank toward the rear. In processional order, the degree recipients enter first, led by the marshal, banner bearer, and crucifer. They are followed in order by faculty, administrators, board members, and the platform party. The opposite order prevails for the recessional.

These centuries-old customs, reflected in today's ceremonies, remind us that while Commencement points to the future, that which is now commencing is also a culmination. Our resources for dealing with either the present or future are necessarily drawn from the accumulated store of wisdom that belongs to the ages and is discovered and reworked anew by each generation.

North Park Theological Seminary Class of 1975

Garth T. Bolinder
Harold J. Cohen*
Adele O. Cole*
William A. Enns
Timothy D. Fretheim
Mark A. Frykholm
William D. Holmlund
Mark S. Olson
George V. Peterson
John H. Satterberg
Robert J. Sunn
Bruce Tay*
L. Earl Towner*
Keith L. Tungseth

*Deceased

Doctor of Ministry

Henry Jackson III*, Dec.
“Prodigal Kings”

Marie Bernadette Moore

“Evangelism to the Dance Floor: Strategic Preaching to
Arouse an Established Church to Engage in Evangelism”

Antonio I. Pizarro

“Prophetic Preaching in White Spaces for the Sake of
Social Justice”

Master of Divinity

Gordon William Battles, *Honors*

Melissa Beth Duncan, *High Honors*
Certificate in Transformative Justice

Andrew Holt Lauber, *High Honors*

Yoshhisa Torren Mack, *Honors*

Eugena V. Wright+, *High Honors*

Master of Divinity and Master of Business Administration

Melvin Garzelzón Ardon Reyes, *High Honors*

Jeffrey Michael Parker Jr.*, Dec., *High Honors*

Master of Divinity and Master of Nonprofit Administration

Natalie Ann Swanson, *High Honors*

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Michael Gordon Alverts, *Honors*

Pamela June Christensen, *Honors*

Anthony Joseph Clerkin*, Dec., *High Honors*

Kristian Chanin Crawford

Alexandria Antoinette Figueroa, *High Honors*

Jose V. Garcia

Brittany Sherice Poku, *High Honors*

Desiree Ann Robertson

Roger Ross

Hannah G. Siemens, *High Honors*

Cheryl Ann Takabayashi+, *High Honors*

Paulita C. Todhunter

Heather Tomscak, *Honors*

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Eric S. Pedersen, *High Honors*

Frederick Earl Wilson

Otha Anderson Jr.*, Aug.

Joseph H. Boyce*, Aug.

Cayla Kristine Reed*, *High Honors*

Alann Vega*, Aug.

Karen Frank McCarron*, *High Honors*

Tameka Lashawn Newson*, *High Honors*

Maria Irene Ramos*, *Honors*

Briana Blaine Travis*, *High Honors*

M. Sketch Vctor*, *High Honors*

Master of Arts in Restorative Justice Ministries

Tiana Elaine Coleman, *High Honors*

Latasha Shaun Kennedy

Deborah Ann Sims, *High Honors*

Sarah Lillian Woody, *High Honors*

Mishunda Latoyia Davis*, *Honors*

Wendy Elizabeth Denzler*, *High Honors*

Jami Renee Fairfax*, *High Honors*

Karin Louise Hargrave*, *Honors*

Maria Elena Jimenez*, *High Honors*

Tina Elizabeth Jones*, *High Honors*

Anteshia A. Lee*, *High Honors*

Legend

*: In absentia

+: Pending completion of requirements

Aug.: Completed requirements in August 2024

Dec.: Completed requirements in December 2024



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