



**COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION AND
CONSECRATION SERVICE**
SIXTH WEEK OF EASTER
MAY 12, 2018

COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

David W. Kersten, Dean of the Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations, North Park Theological Seminary,
Presiding

Prelude

Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Please Stand

Processional

HYMN 17

George Herbert

Welcome and Invocation

David W. Kersten

Psalm 1

Leader: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,

People: **or take the path that sinners tread; or sit in the seat of scoffers**

L: but their delight is in the law of the LORD,

P: **and on his law they meditate day and night.**

Refrain: Like a tree that's planted by the water, we shall not be moved.

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water,

P: **which yield their fruit in its season,**

L: and their leaves do not wither.

P: **In all that they do, they prosper.**

L: The wicked are not so,

P: **but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

L: Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,

P: **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;**

L: for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,

P: **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Refrain: Like a tree that's planted by the water, we shall not be moved.

Hymn 501

Out of Need and Out of Custom

Ken Medema

Out of need and out of custom, we have gathered here again;

To the gath'ring we are bringing love and laughter, grief and pain.

Some believing, some rejoicing, some afraid, and some in doubt,

Coming with our questions voicing, we would search these matters out.

Coming now our masks displaying, fearing that shall be known,
Foolish games forever playing, feeling mean while so alone.
Let pretension's power be broken, to be human let us dare;
let the truth in love be spoken, let us now the questing share.

We have heard the glowing stories of the things which God has done,
Of his power and his glory, of his love in Christ his Son.
God of human transformation, for your presence now we pray,
lead us ever on the journey as we gather here today.

Service of the Word

Please Be Seated

The New Testament Reading

1 John 5:9-13

Christina Smith, Partners in Ministry

Special Music

Hands and Feet

Bethany Clearfield, voice

Chris Siebold, guitar

Rob Clearfield

Introduction of the Speaker

David W. Kersten

Please Stand

The Gospel Reading

John 21: 4-14

Armida Belmonte Stephens, Theology Teaching Fellow

Please Be Seated

Commencement Address

"The Invitations of Jesus"

Gary B. Walter, President, Evangelical Covenant Church

Please Stand

Hymn 630

I Want to Be Like Jesus

Richard K. Carlson

Called to serve, unreserved. I want to be like Jesus.
Living water flowing free, quenching thirst,
washing feet; I want to be like Jesus.

May God's will be fulfilled. I want to be like Jesus.
Choosing life in Christ alone, not my will
but his own. I want to be like Jesus.

Yielded hear set apart, I want to be like Jesus.
Seeking God's priorities, so the world
clearly sees, I want to be like Jesus.

Working toward heav'ns reward, I want to be like Jesus.
Service done in Jesus' name, for the lost,
to reclaim. I want to be like Jesus.

Academic Ceremony

Please Be Seated

Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Divinity

Gary B. Walter

Presented by David W. Kersten

Announcement of Awards

Dwight A. Perry, Dean of Faculty

Field Awards

History

Theology

Ministry

Bible

Cheryl Lynn Cain

Nathan Paul Salinas

Amanda Detchman

Samuel Denver Berger

Preaching Award

Community Service Award

Dianna Lyons-Pinkston

Alex O'keith Smith Jr.

Nadine Bitar

Christian Formation

Youth Ministry Award

Jennifer L. Trees

Joshua David Hiben

Presentation of the Ahnfeldt Medallion

Carl E. Balsam, Interim President, North Park University

Congratulations to Graduates

Carl E. Balsam

Conferring of Degrees

David W. Kersten

Dwight A. Perry

Consecration Service

The Prayers

Of Thanksgiving

Dianna Lyons-Pinkston, Graduating Master of Divinity Student

Of Intercession

Will Eastham, Master of Divinity Student

Of Consecration

Mayra Ramos, Master of Christian Ministry Student

The Lord's Prayer (sins)

The Congregation

Benediction

David W. Kersten

Please Stand

Recessional Hymn 408

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but though art mighty, hold me with thy pow'rful hand:

Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more
Feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer, be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee. Amen.

Postlude

Prelude in G Major

Johann Sebastian Bach

Banner Bearer: Joshua David Hiben, outgoing Student Association Vice President

Crucifer: Alex O'keith Smith Jr., member of graduating class and Seminary
Admissions Counselor

Marshal: James Bruckner, Paul W. Brandel Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Organ and Piano: Sharon Rich Peterson, North Park Theological Seminary Organist

Head Usher: Mackenzie Mahon

Musicians: Bethany Clearfield, voice; Chris Siebold, guitar

Immediately following the service you are invited to a reception in honor of the
graduates in Hamming Hall.

Please refrain from flash photography during the service.

Honorary Degree Recipient Gary B. Walter

Reverend Gary Walter has served as President of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) since 2008.

Walter grew up in Kentfield, CA, in the Bay Area, coming to faith through the ministry of Marin Covenant Church as a high school student. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated with high honors. He received his Master of Divinity degree from North Park Theological Seminary.

He served Village Covenant Church, Azusa, CA; Newport Covenant Church, Bellevue, WA; and Clairemont Covenant Church, San Diego, CA prior to entering denominational service. Before becoming president, he served as the executive minister of the ECC's Department of Church Growth and Evangelism.

During his tenure as president, the ECC has continued to be a growing, multi-generational, multi-ethnic fellowship of churches, now with some 850 congregations in the United States and Canada, with ministry partnerships in dozens of countries around the world. He has guided the ECC to a new streamlined structure that brings focus to five priorities: start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy do justice, and serve globally. He is a columnist for the *Covenant Companion* and serves on the executive committee of Christian Churches Together.

Gary and his wife Nancy are founding members of DeerGrove Covenant Church in Palatine, Illinois and have three daughters (Amy, Alissa, and Lauren) and three granddaughters.

Seminary Class of 1968

Robert Berquist *

William Notehelfer

Dale Bishop

Michael Paull *

Don Holmquist

Donald Wold *

Donald Johnson

*Deceased

Doctor of Ministry

Robert J. Moynihan

Funeral Preaching: A Moment to Evangelize and Reconcile

Bethany Union Church, Chicago, Illinois
MDiv, Catholic Theological Union at Chicago
BA, National Lewis University

Master of Divinity

Brooke Eden Partridge Anderson, Honors

Trinity Covenant Church, Salem, Oregon
BA, Willamette University

Samuel Denver Berger, High Honors*

Mack Avenue Community Church, Detroit, Michigan
BA, Oberlin College

Cheryl Lynn Cain, High Honors

The Sanctuary Church, Bolingbrook, Illinois
Certificate in Justice Ministries,
North Park Theological Seminary
BA, University of Illinois Champaign/Urbana

Amanda Detchman

Quest, Seattle, Washington
BA, Seattle Pacific University

Jonathan Fogel, Honors*

Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette, Illinois
BA, North Park University

Kalvin Fortenberry*

Atonement Covenant, Chicago, Illinois
MA, National Louis University

Shawna Lou Hart

Living Water Community Church
BS, Colorado Christian University

Joshua David Hibben, High Honors*

Grace Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
BA, North Park University

Margaret Kohring, High Honors DEC+

Federated Covenant Church, Dowagiac, MI
MS, Michigan State University
BS, Michigan State University

Dianna Lyons-Pinkston

Vineyard Christian Church, Evanston, Illinois
BA, North Park University

Alicia Kay Reese, High Honors

Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, Illinois
MA, North Park Theological Seminary
MNA, North Park University

Nathan Paul Salinas, High Honors

Sanctuary Community Church, Coralville, Iowa
BS, University of Oregon

Alex O'keith Smith Jr.

River City Community Church, Chicago, Illinois
BA, University of Chicago

Master of Divinity/Master of Business Administration

Max Evan Sluiter

City First Church, Rockford, Illinois
BS, Rockford University

Master of Divinity/Master of Nonprofit Administration

Daniel Charles Roach, High Honors*

Life Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
BA, Manhattan Christian College

Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Tierney Lynn Frost, *Honors*
Excelsior Covenant Church, Excelsior, Minnesota
Certificate in Faith and Health,
North Park University
Certificate in Spiritual Direction,
North Park University
BS, North Park University

Christopher Gredenius
Highrock Church, Arlington, Massachusetts
BA, North Park College

Megan Ronaele Herrold, *High Honors*
River City Community Church, Chicago, Illinois
MA, Dublin City University
BS, Northwestern University

Brain P. Masters*
Grace Evangelical Covenant Church,
Chicago, Illinois
BA, Northern Illinois University

Kathryn Elizabeth Norten, *High Honors*
Hope Evangelical Covenant Church,
Crystal Lake, Illinois
BA, North Central College

Heather J. Perkins, *High Honors*, DEC +
The Journey, Wichita, Kansas
MA, Webster University
BA, Wheaton College

Travis Charles Randolph, *Honors*
Galesburg Covenant Church, Galesburg, Illinois
Certificate in Intercultural Ministry,
North Park Theological Seminary
BA, North Park University

Teyler Sorenson+
Community Covenant Church of Goleta,
Goleta, California
BA, Westmont College

Jennifer L. Trees, *High Honors*, DEC +
Certificate in Spiritual Direction,
North Park Theological Seminary
Hillside Covenant Church, Walnut Creek, California
BS, California State University

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Nadine Suheil Bitar
St. Saviour's Parish, The Old City of Jerusalem
BA, North Park University

Phyllis Davis, *High Honors*, DEC +
New Zion Covenant Church, Dolton, Illinois
Certificate in Foundational Courses,
North Park Theological Seminary
Certificate, Blackstone School of Law
Certificate, Evangelical Teachers Association

Nyisha Vynette Haney
New Life Covenant Southeast, Chicago, Illinois
Certificate in Youth Ministry*,
North Park Theological Seminary
BA, Denison University

Tina Marie Hileman, *High Honors*
Northbrook Evangelical Covenant, Northbrook, IL
BS, Arizona State University
AA, Lansing Community College

Steven John Imig, *High Honors*, DEC +
Resurrection Covenant Church, Chicago, Illinois
MS, Eastern Illinois University
BA, North Central College

* Pending completion of requirements
Dec., completed requirements December 2016
+ In Absentia

Certificate in Congregational Vitality

Michelle G. Kurth

Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church,
Muskegon, MI
MA, North Park Theological Seminary
BA, Bethel University, Minnesota

Certificate in Foundational Courses

Nancye F. Rivera

Mision Cristiana Elim, Chicago, Illinois
MA, Columbia College
BA, DePaul University

Certificate in Spiritual Direction—July 2017

Heather Ashcroft-Clark

Reba Place Church, Evanston, Illinois
BA, Wheaton College

Roxanna Bergfalk

First Covenant Church of Omaha,
Omaha, Nebraska
BS, University of British Columbia, Canada

Heather Cady

Grace Evangelical Covenant Church,
Chicago, Illinois
BA, Northwestern College

Rebecca Dangel

Certificate of Marketing, North Park University
BA, Moody Bible Institute

Jessica Frank-Hansen

MA, George Fox University
BA, University of California

Patrice Grace

Community Covenant Church, Kirkwood, Missouri
MSW, St. Louis University
BA, University of Missouri

Bente James

Crossroads Church, Loveland, Colorado
Studies, AALBORG University

Beth Taulman Miller

First Congregational Church, West Dundee, Illinois
MA, Bethel Seminary
BA, Samford University

Marcy Muhia-Karianjahi

Nairobi Chapel, Nairobi, Kenya
BA, Covenant College

Janelle Partridge

Hillcrest Bible Church, Oregon, Wisconsin

Tammy Roach

Hinsdale Covenant Church, Hinsdale, Illinois
MA, North Park University

Laurel Rude

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church,
Lake Arrowhead, California
BA, Bethel University

Lynn A. Schrott

Church of the Ascension,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
MSN, University of Pittsburg
BSN, West Virginia Wesleyan College

Jeffery Thomson

MA, Liberty University Seminary
BS, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

A NOTE REGARDING ACADEMIC REGALIA

Today's academic costume is a legacy of the Middle Ages. In that period, the loose-fitting academic gowns, which today are merely decorative, served a useful purpose—keeping warm in the drafty and unheated stone buildings of the medieval university. Academic hoods were equally useful for keeping the head warm. But then, as now, clothing served not only practical purposes, but was also a way to define status. When the practical uses of academic garb were superseded by central heating, the symbolic use remained.

Most academic gowns in the United States today are black. The unadorned bachelor's gown is the simplest in design. The master's gown is somewhat more ample, with a peculiar half-sleeve. The doctoral gown is yet more generous of cut and distinguished by velvet facing and three velvet chevrons on the sleeve. The velvet may be black, or it may reflect the color of the wearer's degree. You will notice, however, that some faculty are more colorfully attired. These more splendid gowns have traditionally denoted degrees from European universities, where each institution prescribes its own regalia. In recent years, however, American institutions have increasingly departed from the somber black and adopted their own more colorful garb for doctoral degrees.

Academic hoods reflect both the wearer's degree by the size of the hood and the color of the velvet trim, and the institution from which the degree was earned. At North Park, hoods are worn by both graduates and faculty. The degree colors commonly found at North Park are:

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

The hood linings carry the colors of the school at which the degree was earned.

For the graduates, the color is also reflected in the tassels. Some graduates are distinguished by gold cords worn around the neck. These are honor cords. One pair denotes honors (cumulative grade point average of 3.5 on a 4-point scale), and two pair denotes high honors (3.75).

The medallion traditionally worn by the President of the University contains the seal of North Park University and is the symbol of the presidential office. The Celtic Cross worn by the Dean of the Seminary was presented to him at his installation as a symbol of his office.

The order of precedence in academic processions generally places those of highest rank toward the rear. In order of procession, the degree recipients enter first, led by the marshal, banner bearer, and crucifer, followed in order by faculty, administrators, and board members, and finally 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," it 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 by each generation discovered and reworked anew.