

Commencement

A Celebration of Endings & Beginnings

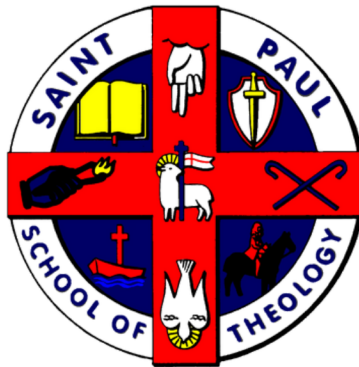
**Friday, May Twelfth
Two Thousand Twenty-Three
Eleven o'clock in the Morning**



Commencement Program

Mission Statement

Centered in Christ and rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of intentional relationships committed to the formation of people for innovative, creative ministry through rigorous academic life; the exploration of Scripture, tradition, and ministry practices; and diverse, contextual experience.





Commencement Program

PRELUDE

Mr. Odell Talley, Pianist

"Welcome Into This Place"

Written by Orlando Jaurez. Recorded by Carmen Ministries & also Gary Oliver

"When the Saints Go to Worship"

Written by Donald Lawrence

"Pulling Me Through"

Written by Todd Dulaney

"Strong Tower"

By Isaac Cates & Ordained

"Live Again"

Written by Odell D. Talley

We Gather

GREETING

Rev. Emily Stirewalt '11
Church of the Resurrection

Rev. Jen Logsdon-Kellogg, Senior
Pastor at Bridgeview United
Methodist Church, Oklahoma
Campus Saint Paul Chapel
Coordinator

*PROCESSIONAL

Mr. Odell Talley

"We Would See Jesus"

AUTHOR Anna Bartlett Warner CCLI SONG #7002215 Public Domain

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christopher Wisener
Student Council President 2022-23

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80
President

PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80

2023 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT

Bishop Delores Williamston '07

*The congregation is invited to stand, as able.



**RECOGNIZING THE
50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CLASS OF 1973**

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80

**MUSIC FOR
CENTERING OUR
HEARTS ON GOD**

Rev. Tim Navis, Organist,
Director of Music Ministries
First UMC of Edmond

"The Peace May Be Exchanged"

from "Rubrics" by Dan Locklair. (Copyright 1988 by Hal Leonard Publishing.)

We Proclaim

**PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Elaine Robinson
Professor of Methodist Studies
and Christian Theology

**SCRIPTURE
READING**

Dr. Joshua Bartholomew
Assistant Professor of Ethics,
Church and Society

Philippians 1:1-11 NRSV

**COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS**

This Is Only the Beginning!
Bishop Delores Williamston '07
The Louisiana Conference UMC
2023 Distinguished Graduate
Award Recipient

We Respond

**PRAYER OF
RESPONSE**

Dr. Israel Kamudzandu
Lindsey P. Pherigo Associate
Professor of New Testament
Studies and Biblical Interpretation

Ritual of Graduation

**PRESENTATION OF
GRADUATES**

Dr. Sharon Betsworth
Vice President for Academic
Affairs and Dean, and Professor of
New Testament



AUTHORIZATION

Dr. Amy Hogan
Chair, Board of Trustees

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Faculty Marshal
Praxis Thesis Committee

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80
Dr. Sharon Betsworth
Dr. Amy Hogan
Dr. Nancy Howell, Professor of
Theology and Philosophy of
Religion and Oubri A. Poppele
Professor of Health and Welfare
Ministries

Faculty Marshal

Dr. Kris Kvam, Professor of
Theology

Faculty Marshal

Dr. Elaine Robinson
Rev. Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe,
Executive Director - OK Campus
Mr. Jabari Wamble, Board of
Trustees

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
Master of Divinity
Doctor of Ministry

***CELEBRATION**

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80

We Are Sent Forth

GREETINGS AND WELCOME TO THE GRADUATE ASSOCIATION

Rev. Trista Soendker Nicholson '12
Interim Director of the Chapel &
Pastor, St. Paul's UMC Raymore

All Saint Paul graduates & alumni are invited to stand for the covenant and prayer.

***BENEDICTION**

Rev. Neil B. Blair '80

***RECESSIONAL**

Rev. Tim Navis

"All Creatures of Our God and King", UMH #62

POSTLUDE

Rev. Tim Navis

"Nun Danket Alle Gott" (Now Thank We All Our God)

By Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Music used by permission under OneLicense #A707489 and CCLI #889859

Following the postlude, you are invited to join the graduates in Foundry Hall (KS) or Watson Lounge (OK) for a brief time of greeting and refreshment following commencement.



Commencement Program

Candidates for Degrees

Master of Arts Christian Ministry

SUCHEOL BAE

Prophetic Witness and Service

COURTNEY FELLERS ♦

ROBERT MARK

Deacon Ministries

FILLMORE ♦

CYNTHIA BERRY

Deacon Ministries

MILLER ♦

JOSHUA EARL BLAND ♦

Deacon Ministries

Master of Divinity

MICHAEL ISAAC

Wesleyan Studies

CLOUD ♦

J. ANGEL GARCIA JR. ♦

KAREN S. MOUNTAIN

CAITLIN L. OTT

Women, Society, and Church
Studies

JESSICA LYNN SACHS ♦

SHARON L. TATE

YOLANDA DENISE

Women, Society, and Church
Studies

WALKER ♦

LEANNE WASLESKI

CHRISTOPHER JAMES

WISENER

NASH CAREY

TYLAR G. GRANT

Women, Society, and Church
Studies

♦ Honors Graduate



Master of Divinity cont...

ALANNA IRELAND ♦

SARA LYNDI MARTIN ♦

JUSTIN IKE SMITH

SHANNON (BETSY)
STEWART

Doctor of Ministry

MARCEE ANN
BINDER ♦

*Track: Spiritual Leadership in
Unsettled Times. Thesis: Creating
Communities of Care: Using
Trauma-Informed Theology in
Church*

ANGELA CRISTI
MCCARTY ♦

*Track: Spiritual Leadership in
Unsettled Times. Thesis: Messy
Sex: A Complicated Sexual Ethic to
Address the Harm of the Purity
Movement*

Thank you to those who helped make this celebration possible.



Commencement Program

Thank You

Student Marshals

Student Marshals for Commencement are members of the junior class who have demonstrated outstanding achievement during their seminary studies

Kayla Meredith

Abigail Schultz

Acolytes

Leah Miller Swank

Diandra Nelson

Banner Bearers

Christopher Wisener

Corey Shirey

Church of the Resurrection Event Coordinator

Logan Shaver

Audio Visual Technicians

David Boss, Producer, COR

James Felver, Broadcast & Online Creative Director, COR

Carson Wright, Special Events Manager, OCU

Julian Faraon, IT Media Supervisor, SPST

Student Greeters

Jarrold Conyers

Olivia Ankrom

Rachel Feters

Diandra Nelson

Musonda Ngolwe

Corey Shirey

Tricia Veit

Joey Simpson

Jessica Lovell

Suppliers

Sonflower Bakery

Catalyst Cookies

Tom Bradley Photography

Circle House Media

Church of the Resurrection

Oklahoma City University

Irene Thompson

Merna Upp

Commencement Committee

Mr. David Firman

Rev. Margaretta Smith

Ms. Tiana Gatewood

Narcisse '04

Rev. Dr. Michelle Hatcher

Rev. Trista Soendker

Mr. Julian Faraon

Nicholson '12

Dr. Tiffany Nagel Monroe '12