



Commencement

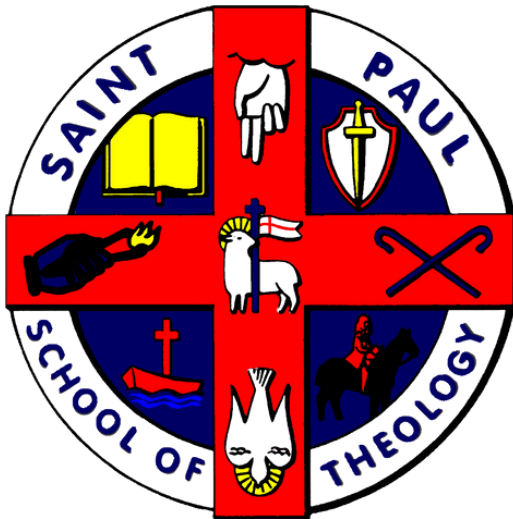
A Celebration of Endings & Beginnings

Friday, May Sixteenth
Two Thousand Twenty-Five
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

Holy Spirit
by Richard Smallwood

Trust in God
by Elevation Worship

Angus Dei
by Michael W. Smith

We Gather

GREETING

Mr. David Firman
Kansas Campus Coordinator

Rev. Alanna Ireland '23
Oklahoma Campus Coordinator and
Chaplain/Spiritual Director

*PROCESSIONAL

Mr. Odell Talley

Lord I Lift Your Name On High
by Rick Founds

*CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME

Dr. Jay Simmons
President

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CLASS

Dr. Jay Simmons

*The congregation is invited to stand, as able.

**RECOGNIZING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY CLASS**

Dr. Jay Simmons

**PRESENTATION OF
DISTINGUISHED
GRADUATE AWARD**

Dr. Jim Brandt
Professor Emeritus of Historical
Theology

2025 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell '20

**MUSIC FOR CENTERING
OUR HEARTS ON GOD**

Mr. Odell Talley

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm

We Proclaim

**PRAYER FOR
ILLUMINATION**

Dr. Nancy Howell
Professor of Theology and Philosophy
of Religion and Oubri A. Poppele
Professor of Health and Welfare
Ministries

SCRIPTURE READING

Dr. Kris Kvam
Professor of Theology

Ephesians 6:10-18 NRSVUE

SPEAKER INTRODUCTION

Dr. Jay Simmons

**COMMENCEMENT
ADDRESS**

Bishop Laura Merrill
Resident Bishop of the Arkansas,
Oklahoma, and Oklahoma Indian
Missionary Conferences

We Respond

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Dr. Elaine Robinson

Professor of Methodist Studies and
Christian Theology

Ritual of Graduation

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Jeanne Hoeft

Acting VPAAD, Associate Professor of
Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care,
and Franklin and Louise Cole
Associate Professor in Town and
Country Ministries

AUTHORIZATION

Rev. Laura L. Murphy

SPST Board of Trustees
Director of Development, Missouri
United Methodist Foundation

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Jay Simmons

Dr. Jeanne Hoeft

Rev. Laura L. Murphy

Dr. Casey Sigmon

Assistant Professor of Preaching and
Worship and Director of Contextual
Education and Pause/Play Center for
Preachers

Dr. Israel Kamudzandu

Lindsey P. Pherigo Assoc. Professor of New
Testament Studies & Biblical Interpretation

Dr. Jacob Randolph

Asst Professor of History of Christianity
and Academic Director of the OK Campus

Dr. Nancy Howell

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

***THE CELEBRATION**

Dr. Jay Simmons

We Are Sent Forth

**GREETINGS AND
WELCOME TO THE
GRADUATE ASSOCIATION**

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Boswell '20
2025 Distinguished Graduate Award
Recipient

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

***BENEDICTION**

Dr. Jay Simmons

***RECESSIONAL**

Dr. Melissa Plamann
Oklahoma City University Professor
of Music

Now Thank We All Our God
by J.S. Bach, arr. Claude Means

POSTLUDE

Dr. Melissa Plamann

Ceremonial March
by Herbert Sumsion (1899-1995)

Following the postlude, you are invited to join the graduates in Room C020 (KS) or Harris Chapel (OK) for a brief time of greeting and refreshment following commencement. Elevators or stairs are available on the Kansas Campus.

*The congregation is invited to stand, as able.

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Commencement Program

Candidates for Degrees

Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

NINA MARIE PALUMBO

United Methodist Studies

Master of Arts in Theological Studies

MELAINA KAITLYN RILEY ♦

Thesis: *Am I My Brother's Keeper?
A Case for Jewish Abolition Theology in
Conversation with James Cone and
Marc Ellis*

Master of Divinity

BOBBLIN OMONDI OWINDE

COREY DUANE SHIREY

Spirituality and Prophetic Leadership

TONYA MARIE BOYD ♦

JENNIFER LYNN ADAMS ♦

Wesleyan Studies

MATTHEW DAVID BORLAND

TIFFANI ANETTE BREWER

SHERRI LEE CISNEROS ♦

♦ Honors Graduate

Master of Divinity

CRYSTAL DIANE DOOLEY ♦

JOYCE MARIE EILTS

RACHEL LEIGHANN
PREWITT FETTERS ♦

Women, Society, and Church Studies

JEFFREY ALAN GRABER ♦

TREY AARON ANDREW
LAVERONI ♦

TRICIA LYNN VEIT

KASEY RENAE FEICK
VOGEL ♦

Spirituality and Prophetic Leadership

Doctor of Ministry

JASON MICHAEL
ELLINGSON ♦

Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled
Times. Thesis: *Vulnerability as a
Spiritual Posture: Faithful
Authenticity in the Presence of God -
and Others*

CHRISTOPHER CRAIG CLARK

Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled
Times. Thesis: *The Communal Table:
Storytelling and Table Fellowship as
Instruments of Community
Transformation*

ADAM WAYNE SHAHAN ♦

Spiritual Leadership in Unsettled
Times. Thesis: *The Hidden Hurts:
Moving with Suffering Toward
Incarnational Living*

Commencement Program

Thank You to Everyone Who Helped Make Today Possible

Student Marshals

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

MinKyung Chun
Allison Wilson

Nathan McFee

Acolytes

Julieann Day

Rudy Rocket

Banner Bearers

Chris Jackson

Corey Shirey

Greeters

Jarrold Conyers
Emilyjane Eichman
Emily Elliott

Kris Mayberry
Joey Simpson
Jennifer Smith

Suppliers

Sonflower Bakery
Catalyst Cookies
Tom Bradley Photography
Robert Davis, OCU
Logan Shaver, Resurrection

Circle House Media
Irene Thompson
Merna Upp
Brian Gwinner, OCU
Carson Wright, OCU

Commencement Committee

Tom Cochran
David Firman
Tiana Gatewood
Michelle Hatcher

Alanna Ireland '23
Caitlyn Koebbe
Margaretta Smith Narcisse '04 '24
Jacob Randolph