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**COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION AND  
CONSECRATION SERVICE**  
**FIFTH WEEK OF EASTER**  
**MAY 14, 2022**



# COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION

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David W. Kersten, Dean of the Seminary, North Park Theological Seminary, Presiding

*Please stand*

## Prelude

Toccata in F Major

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

## Processional

Processional of Joy

*Lawrence J. Meyer*

## Welcome

David W. Kersten

## Call to Worship

Debra R. Auger, Dean of Students and Community Life

Psalm 148

Leader: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

**People: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!**

L: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

**P: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

**P: He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds,  
which cannot be passed.**

L: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

**P: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

L: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

**P: Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!**

L: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

**P: Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

L: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

**P: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.**

**ALL: Praise the LORD!**

## Opening Song

*Jireh*

Danielle Kilgore, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Benjamin Zuehlsdorff, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

*C. J. Brown, S. Furtick*

*C. Moore, N. Raine*

## Service of the Word

*Please be seated*

## The Old Testament Reading

Song of Songs 2:10-13, 8:6-9

Michelle Dodson, Teaching Fellow in Ministry

*Please stand*

**The Gospel Reading**

John 13:31-35  
Emily Wagner, Associate Director of Seminary Student Services

*Please be seated*

**Special Music**

Worship Medley  
Lydia Vander Stelt, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry  
David Bjorlin, Teaching Fellow in Music and Worship

**Introduction of the Speaker**

Mark Novak

**Commencement Address**

“Invitation and Promise”  
David W. Kersten

**Special Music**

*From Seminary to Visionary*  
Brandon Lewis, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry  
Original lyrics, see insert

**Academic Ceremony**

**Announcement of Awards**

Dennis R. Edwards, Interim Dean of Faculty and  
Associate Professor of New Testament

History  
Theology  
Biblical Exegesis and Interpretation  
Biblical Languages  
Innovative Ministry

Academic Excellence in Christian Formation

Ricky Chao  
Jamal Jalal Bakr Jr.  
Chencheng Zhao  
Tricia Ivanoff  
Amy C. Knorr  
Antonio I. Pizarro  
Kristi Sue Smith  
Shelly Irene Zuehlsdorff

**Presentation of the Ahnfeldt Medallion**

Mary K. Surridge, President, North Park University

**Congratulations to Graduates**

Mary K. Surridge

**Conferring of Degrees**

Dennis R. Edwards  
David W. Kersten

## Consecration Service

### The Prayers

Of Thanksgiving

Nilwona Nowlin, Master of Divinity

Of Intercession

Lee Cormier, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Of Consecration

Ruby Varghese, Master of Arts in Christian Formation

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**

### Charge

John S. Wenrich, President, Evangelical Covenant Church

*Please stand*

### Hymn 78

*Thomas O. Chrisholm*

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

## **Benediction**

David W. Kersten

## **Recessional**

Triumphal March

*Edvard Grieg*

## **Postlude**

Trumpet Overture

*Purcell/Wolff*

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

Please refrain from flash photography during the service.

## Speaker

Dave Kersten currently serves as the Dean of North Park Theological Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations for North Park University. He began serving the Covenant in 1979 and pastored four Covenant congregations in Alabama, Florida, Washington, and Minnesota before being elected to the position of Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry in 2001. Dave served the denomination in this role until taking his current position with North Park in 2012.

Under Dave's leadership, the Seminary has seen significant expansion and growth, taking theological education well beyond traditional models. Working with regional conferences, NPTS developed a distance cohort model, bringing seminary to pastors currently serving a church who cannot relocate to Chicago for seminary. Additionally, the School of Restorative Arts launched in the fall of 2018, bringing higher Theological Education into prisons, it currently offers classes in Stateville Correctional Center, and Logan Correctional Center. Under North Park's model in the SRA, outside students have the opportunity to study alongside incarcerated students in the program, a truly transformational experience and one that is completely unique to the SRA.

Dave has been married to Sandra Kay for over 40 years and together they have raised three children. Dave and Sandi enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren, especially at their home in Ludington, Michigan where Dave is the owner and operator of Keeper, a 1953 Chris Craft Express Cruiser which has been in the Kersten family for two generations.

**Banner Bearer:** Oscar Parham, Master of Arts Christian Ministry

**Crucifer:** Chencheng Zhao, Master of Divinity

**Marshal:** Hauna Ondrey, Associate Professor of Church History

**Organ:** Sharon Rich Peterson, North Park Theological Seminary Organist

**Piano:** David Bjorlin, Teaching Fellow

**Head Usher:** Emily Berg

# 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.

## North Park Theological Seminary Class of 1972

Thomas B. Anderson

Robert D. Bruce\*

Peter A. Dyck

David R. Erickson

James A. Fretheim

James H. Gaderlund\*

Thomas E. Garretson\*

Steven A. Gjerstad

Roland S. Jedlick

Rodger L. Jorgenson

Richard M. Lindman

Lyle R. Person

James V. Sundholm\*

\*Deceased



## Doctor of Ministry

Justin S. Adour +

*Developing Justice-Oriented Church Plants  
and Revitalizations*

Tyrone Alan Frazier

*Preaching to Repair a Fragmented Church: Healing  
and Reconciling the Divisions Within a Congregation*

## Master of Divinity

Michele Ann Arndt, *High Honors* \*

Adam Lewis Barnett, *High Honors DEC* +

Paul H. Betancourt, *Honors*

Anthony F. Brundage, *DEC*

Ricky Chao, *Honors*

Katherine Renee Fredericks, *High Honors* \*

Michael Dennis Hill, *High Honors*

Shaolong Jiang +

Erin Marie Johnson, *High Honors*

Mark C. Knight, *Honors* +

Seung Evelyn La, *Honors*

Carl John Lindberg +

Kathryn E. Norten, *High Honors*

Nilwona Elise Nowlin, *Honors*

Nicholas Allen Pringle, *DEC* +

Travis Charles Randolph, *Honors* \*

Kurt Andrew Roberts +

Alma Rosa Sanchez Zamudio Maciel, *High Honors*

Chencheng Zhao, *Honors*

## Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Ali Calikoglu, *DEC* +

## Master of Arts in Christian Formation

Bobbie Jo Ann Barclay

Caleb M. Byron, *High Honors* +

Heather Joy Cook +

Lee Joseph-William Cormier, *Honors*

Israel Duarte Wang, *High Honors* +

Kelley E. Funk, *Honors*

Michael A. Gutierrez, *Honors*

Danielle L. Kilgore

Amy C. Knorr, *High Honors*  
*Certificate in Spiritual Direction*

Alison Rae Kuglin, *Honors*

Aubrey Claire Larsen, *High Honors DEC* +

Julie Anne Persson, *High Honors*

Brandi Sanders

Kristi Sue Smith, *High Honors*

Mika M. Strait, *High Honors*

Ruby A. Varghese, *Honors*

Sarah C. Winter, *High Honors*

Brandon M. Wong, *Honors* +

Stephen Charles Wyson, *High Honors* +

Benjamin Richard Zuehlsdorff, *High Honors*

Shelly Irene Zuehlsdorff, *High Honors*

## Master of Arts in Christian Formation/ Masters in Business Administration

Brandon Seth Davis

## Master of Arts in Christian Ministry

Denisse Adriana Arango Moreno, *DEC + Certificate in Intercultural Ministry*

Donna M. Bailey

Daniel L. Gisel, *High Honors +*

Linda Marie Murdock, *Honors*

Janelle Partridge, *DEC*

Micaela D. Riley

Colette Rocha, *High Honors DEC +*

## Master of Arts in Christian Ministry/ Masters in Business Administration

Tricia Ivanoff, *High Honors*

## Master of Arts in Christian Ministry/Restorative Arts Track

**Certificates in Restorative Arts, Pastoral Arts, and Transformative Justice**

David Denson, *Honors*

Oscar Parham, *Honors*

Antonio I. Pizarro, *High Honors \**

Vickie Anne Reddy, *High Honors*

Lydia R. Vander Stelt, *High Honors \**

Luigi P. Adamo, *High Honors*

Ignacio Alvarez, *High Honors*

Jamal Jalal Bakr Jr., *High Honors*

Edward Leon Brown, *High Honors*

Melvin Centeno Colón

Christopher DeShawn Everett, *Honors*

Steven LaMont Feagin, *High Honors*

William Thomas Jones, *High Honors*

Howard Ernest Keller Jr., *High Honors*

Brandon Isiah Lewis, *Honors*

Johnny James Marizetts Jr., *High Honors*

Chester Arthur McKinney III, *High Honors*

Manuel Don-Piërre Metlock, *High Honors*

Scott Wesley Moore, *High Honors*

Jason E. Munoz, *High Honors*

Alex Manuel Negrón, *High Honors*

Raymond Nesbitt Jr., *Honors*

Marcos Ramirez, *Honors*

Benny Rios Don Juan, *High Honors*

Rayon C. Sampson, *High Honors*

Michael Sanders, *High Honors*

Michael Anthony Simmons, *High Honors*

Lonnie Lanra Smith, *Honors*

Willie Spates Jr. III, *High Honors*

Michael Maurice Sullivan, *Honors*

John Edward Taylor Jr., *High Honors*

Richard Turner II, *High Honors*

Róderick Zavala Sr., *High Honors*

# Certificate in Spiritual Direction

- Amy Christine Knorr
- Andrea Maria Kathryn Wilson
- Daniel J. Roach
- David Stanton Hillis
- Elizabeth S. Peterson
- Jeffrey McClain
- Jennifer Goodyer
- Karen Lynne Groot
- Kitchie Ranillo Bakken
- Randall Philip Wilkens
- Sandra Ann Parrott
- Sara van Alkemade
- Troy Cady

\* Pending completion of requirements  
Dec., completed requirements December 2021  
+ In Absentia



**NORTH PARK**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
CHICAGO