



# COMMENCEMENT

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**BAYAN**  
ISLAMIC GRADUATE SCHOOL

**Friday, April 28, 2023**

Trinity United Church of Christ

Streamed Live on YouTube

Speaker: Dr. Brad R. Braxton

# Make a Legacy Gift; Get CTS Socks!

CTS Grads, your time has come! We are so proud of what you have accomplished. Congratulations on a job well done!

You know how valuable a CTS education is; you've just proven it. Help us secure the seminary we all love for generations to come. Your gift of \$20.23 or more in honor of your 2023 graduation will help ensure future students have access to the same opportunities you did.

Plus, if you make your gift today, you get a pair of CTS-branded socks! These white socks feature the CTS flame and logo printed all over. They are the perfect way to remind yourself of how amazing your time at CTS was!

Visit **ctschicago.edu/2023** to make your gift, or fill out the form below.

## CONGRATULATIONS AGAIN!



### 2023 Legacy Gift

Make a Gift in Honor of your Accomplishments!

**GIFT AMOUNT (CHECK BOX):**

**GRADUATION YEAR:** \$20.23 ☐

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_ ☐

**WAYS TO GIVE:**

**ONLINE:** CTSCHICAGO.EDU/2023

**PHONE:** 773.896.2431

**CHECK:** MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO "CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY" AND SEND IT BACK WITH THIS CARD

**CARD:** CHARGE MY GIFT TO MY CARD (CIRCLE ONE)

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CREDIT CARD NUMBER

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Make your gift and receive socks





April 28, 2023

Dear CTS Graduates,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Faculty, the Staff, and the entire community of Chicago Theological Seminary, I congratulate you on the momentous achievement of completing your CTS degree. As you move into the next phase of your life and service in the world, may you do so with the confidence and passion that you have cultivated through your time here.

During your time at CTS, you have been challenged to think critically about the complex nature of our world. This has occurred regularly as you have engaged in meaningful conversations with people from different religious, spiritual, and ethical traditions and reflected on and critiqued your own beliefs and values. Never stop doing this.

While you have completed the requirements for a graduate degree, we hope that you will continually graduate in the curriculum of complexity that is taught daily in a world pulsating with opportunities for and obstacles to justice and radically inclusive love. Indeed, it is in the complexities – those known and those unknown – that beauty, truth, and wisdom often emerge. Those inspiring discussions in the Learning Commons, those arguments about a controversial social issue in a Zoom class, those people and places that you encountered while a student at CTS have facilitated your personal and professional growth in ways perhaps unimagined before matriculating at CTS. Complexity is good; it catalyzes growth and shapes us into people who can embrace and celebrate those who are different from us.

As you go forth, remember not just the theological facts and historical figures, but also the spiritual values and leadership lessons that you have learned at CTS. I urge you to use your knowledge and skills to foster positive change wherever you land. Advocate for those who are marginalized and oppressed and build bridges across the magnificent and myriad differences that make us human. Know that you carry with you the fervent prayers and bountiful goodwill of the entire CTS community. We are proud of you and all that you have accomplished, and we are excited to see the consequential impact that you will have in the world.

Congratulations once again. May Divine Providence go ahead of you to lead you. May Divine Presence walk alongside you to comfort you. May Divine Protection follow behind you to keep you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad R. Braxton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad R. Braxton, PhD  
President and Professor of Public Theology  
Chicago Theological Seminary



April 28, 2023

As-salaamu Alaikum (peace be with you). On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Faculty and Staff of Bayan Islamic Graduate School, I proudly convey an enthusiastic congratulations to all of the graduates of CTS and Bayan during this year's commencement.

As we continue to adjust to new ways of teaching and learning hastened by the global pandemic, relying on technology and often gathering virtually, we have found that there is no substitute for direct human connection. We are truly grateful for the ability to convene at various times throughout the year with faculty and students in the CTS facilities.

Our student body continues to grow, composed of remarkable individuals engaged in diverse forms of service and leadership. They are being enriched and challenged by their professors and peers from across many faiths and worldviews. Through this engagement, our hope is that they will be even stronger advocates for peace and justice in our society and in the world.

With gratitude to God, we are excited to see another fine group of Bayan graduates go forth with degrees reflecting their interests in Islamic Studies, Islamic Education, Islamic Leadership and Islamic Chaplaincy. Join me in celebrating this year's Bayan graduating class at CTS. Mabruk!

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jihad Turk", written in a cursive style.

Jihad Turk, EdD  
Founding President  
Bayan Islamic Graduate School

# Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC.....MR. RANDALL JOHNSON, PIANIST

PROCESSIONAL DRUMMING..... SAPPHIRE (MS. TERRY MORROW)  
& BINTA (REV. MICHELLE HUGHES) OF SPIRIT RHYTHMS,  
ACCOMPANIED BY REV. DR. KENT POINDEXTER

OPENING WORDS.....REV. MELISSA HENDRICKS WIKE  
REV. CHRIS ALLAUN  
REV. TOBY HEDGEPEETH,  
MR. ROSS MCINTYRE

PRAYER:  
SURAH 2:284-286.....IMAM DIDMAR FAJA

CONGREGATIONAL SONG:  
"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" (SEE PAGE 4).....MR. RANDALL JOHNSON, PIANO  
REV. DR. CANDACE LAUGHINGHOUSE, ORGAN

GREETINGS.....REV. DR. BRAD R. BRAXTON, CTS PRESIDENT  
REV. JANET MACLEAN, CTS BOARD CHAIR  
DR. JIHAD TURK, BAYAN PRESIDENT  
REV. DR. OTIS MOSS III, TRINITY UCC PASTOR

ACADEMIC NOTICES.....REV. DR. STEPHANIE BUCKHANON CROWDER, ACADEMIC DEAN

MUSIC:  
"JESUS LOVES ME MEDITATION" .....REV. MELISSA HENDRICKS WIKE, PIANIST

READING:  
"Q" BY YONA HARVEY..... REV. JASMINA RAE INGRAM

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE.....REV. BRIAN E. SMITH (DAVID WALLACE)

READING:  
SURAH 7:54-58.....CHAPLAIN RECHE' TARIQ ABDUL-HAQQ

ADDRESS.....REV. DR. BRAD R. BRAXTON, .CTS PRESIDENT

MUSIC:  
"BE THOU MY VISION" .....REV. MELISSA HENDRICKS WIKE, PIANIST

READINGS:  
"5 BEFORE 5".....CHAPLAIN DILNAZ WARAICH  
ISAIAH 43:2-3A,18.....REV. ELLEN KEYSER ENDELMAN

CONFERRING OF DEGREES.....REV. DR. BRAD R. BRAXTON, CTS PRESIDENT  
DR. JIHAD TURK, BAYAN PRESIDENT  
REV. DR. STEPHANIE BUCKHANON CROWDER, CTS ACADEMIC DEAN  
MR. MUNIR SHAIKH, BAYAN VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS  
REV. DR. TINA SHELTON, CTS REGISTRAR  
REV. JANET MACLEAN, CTS BOARD CHAIR

SONG.....MR. RANDALL JOHNSON, PIANIST

READING  
 "FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FAR TO TRAVEL".....REV. MELISSA MCLEAN

FACULTY CHARGE.....REV. DR. HEESUNG HWANG

GRADUATE RESPONSE.....REV. DR. CANDACE LAUGHINGHOUSE

LITANY OF THANKS (SEE PAGE 5).....REV. BELINDA SLEDGE  
 CHAPLAIN TRISKA ALIM MOOSA

"BENEDICTION" BY REV. SEAN PARKER DENNISON.....REV. JULIE BRITTON

RECESSIONAL DRUMMING..... SAPPHIRE (MS. TERRY MORROW)  
 & BINTA (REV. MICHELLE HUGHES) OF SPIRIT RHYTHMS,  
 ACCOMPANIED BY REV. DR. KENT POINDEXTER

## "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Lift every voice and sing,  
 Till earth and heaven ring,  
 Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
 Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list'ning skies,  
 let it resound loud as the rolling sea  
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
 Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
 Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
 Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
 Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,  
 Come to the place for which our people sighed?  
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,  
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
 Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
 God of our silent tears,  
 Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
 Thou who has by thy might, led us into the light,  
 keep us forever in the path, we pray,  
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,  
 Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,  
 Shadowed beneath the hand, may we forever stand,  
 True to our God, true to our native land.

# Litany of Thanks

Leader 1: To the Ground of our being, known by many names, seen in many guises, Source of Grace and Mercy, you have led us to the joy this graduation day brings. When we grew tired or weary, you gave us the strength to endure, to not give up.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 2: To our ancestors, you walk beside us, supplying us with wisdom from beyond, paving the way for our future.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 1: To our families, who made many sacrifices to give us the time and space we needed to complete our studies. You helped us to make this educational journey a priority in our life together. You showed patience and offered forgiveness when we were busy and you had to wait for things you needed from us.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 2: To our friends, who encouraged us when we doubted ourselves, shrinking before our calling, and who provided a shoulder for us to lean on when we stumbled along the way, in courses, in field placements, in CPE.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 1: To those who make CTS and Bayan such vital institutions—staff, administration, board members and other supporters, your dedication to educating, equipping and empowering religious leaders for today and for tomorrow is remarkable.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 2: To CTS and Bayan faculty, you challenged us toward excellence, you listened to us and provided leadership and guidance. You were always turning our “I can’t” into “I can.”

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 1: To our spiritual leaders and mentors, you provided (and provide) abundant prayers and faith and trust and love to us.

**Graduates: For this, we are grateful.**

Leader 2: And, finally, to each other, especially for our collective learnings as CTS and Bayan students who were privileged to study and to share together, for memories that will last a lifetime, and bonds that can’t be broken.

**All: For this, we are forever grateful.**

Leader 1: Let us pray.

Creator God, our sustainer, we thank you for making all things new. We thank you for always being there for us and never allowing us to give up on ourselves. As we celebrate this day, we are reminded that we did not get here alone. We are grateful and look forward to where you will guide us next. As we pray in our own individual way, let the gratitude in our hearts flow into your heart for the love that you share with us.

**All: Let it be so!**



# STATEMENT OF MISSION & COMMITMENTS

Chicago Theological Seminary, a seminary affiliated with the United Church of Christ, serves God, Christ's Church, multiple faith communities, and the larger world by educating persons theologically and cultivating the intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual capacities of lay and ordained religious leaders, scholars, and activists who contribute to the increase of justice and mercy.

Inspired by the ministry of Jesus, guided by the Spirit of the Divine, and nurtured by faith and culture, we strive to create a sacred learning community that educates for public ministry, based upon the following interwoven commitments:

- We are committed to a life of mutual teaching and learning, to academic excellence, to open inquiry, and to critical engagement of texts, contexts, and practices in all of our educational programs;
- We are committed, in a world suffering from spiritual impoverishment, which is characterized by meaninglessness, lovelessness, and hopelessness, to proclaim a message of divine purpose, compassion, and promise;
- We are committed, in a society structured by white supremacy and racism, to challenge white privilege, to combat the forces of racial division and domination, and to equip leaders who embrace and celebrate racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity;
- We are committed, in a global context of religious conflicts and a society structured by Christian privilege, to joyous embrace of religious diversity, expanding our ground-breaking work in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Studies to advance understanding and collaboration among the rich multiplicity of spiritual traditions and lifestances;
- We are committed, in a world governed by sex and gender binaries, to advocate gender justice, to nurture movements for women's equality, and to liberate humanity from restrictive gender norms;
- We are committed, in a world governed by the presumption of heterosexual expression, to challenge homophobia, to celebrate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other individuals within the spectrum of human sex and sexuality, and to develop leadership to encourage faith communities to become more open and affirming;
- We are committed, in a world stratified by economic and social class, to challenge the structures that sustain poverty and economic disenfranchisement, and to join the struggle, as companions with the poor, for liberation of all from want, homelessness, hunger, and disease;
- We are committed, on a fragile planet threatened by pollution and exploitation, to interrogate ecological policies, theologies, and practices, and to challenge materialism and the devaluation of creation; and,
- We are committed, in recognition that social divisions are local, national, and global, to international collaboration among individuals and institutions with similar commitments to our own.

In all these ways, we embrace not only the rhetoric but the reality of diversity, and recognize the vital intersectionality of our commitments, working together to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. We invite others to join us.



# About Chicago Theological Seminary

Chicago Theological Seminary is an affiliated seminary of the United Church of Christ. For over 167 years, we have educated future leaders for a multitude of ministries. Since our beginning, CTS has pushed at the growing edges of the church in order to make faith relevant and transform our society towards greater justice. Our student body now represents more than 40 different faith traditions, perspectives, and denominations.

## Our History

Since its inception, CTS has lived on the edge – literally and figuratively. Established in the boomtown of Chicago in 1855, the Seminary's first mission was to train church leaders on what was then the United States' western boundary. Throughout our history, CTS has been a leader in theological education, social justice, and societal transformation.





# The Graduating Class of 2023

## THE CERTIFICATE IN ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY

Dilhaz Alim Waraich



## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Mary P. Burns

Camren Harris

Ross McIntyre

Leo Wolters Tejera

### ISLAMIC STUDIES

Maryam Ahmad

Sadia Jalali

Amal Jawan

Kareem Syed

## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

### ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY

Reche' Tariq Abdul-Haqq

Hassan Syed Ali

Stefan Shane Atkinson

Mohammed Saaka Ekililu

Didmar Faja

Adrian Leroy Kirk

Triska 'Alima Moosa

### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Christopher J. Allaun

Ellen Louise Keyser Endelman

Julie Payne Britton

Cynthia M. Lee

Kesha Brown

Betty Ann McDaniel

Mark Bundy

Melissa Anne McLean

Sarah Rhodes Clark-Farnell

Leanette Konadu Pokuwaah

Thomas Howard Colclasure

Robert Routzahn

Sarah Lillie Foster

Brian Anthony Sieve

Toby Andrea Hedgepeth

Belinda Sledge

Kenna Hollingshead

Magen Mae Vallillo

Jasmina Rae Ingram

Ryan Wagers

Jamie W. Johnson

Nicole Mckenzie Alison Wrobel

Julie Annette Keefer

**THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY**

Amber Richelle Clifford

Melissa Hendricks Wike



**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY**

Timothy L. Dotson

Andria Michelle Davis

John Forrest Douglas

Lawrence Stephon Johnson



**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Candace Michelle Laughinghouse

Melanie Chante Jones

Hyong Ju Byon

# 2022 C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award

The C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award acknowledges the outstanding work of a CTS student who carries C. Shelby Rooks' legacy in their commitment to community and uses the lessons from the past to guide the future. C. Shelby Rooks was the first African American president of a predominately white theological school and was one of the founders of the Society for the Study of Black Religion.

DOROTHY PARRISH-HARRIS

# 2023 Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Award

The Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Award is presented to a student who designs a program that promotes interreligious cooperation and understanding. Students are invited to offer a two-part paper identifying a specific issue or gap within a particular context that could be addressed through an interreligious event/initiative and setting forth a plan for implementing that event/initiative.

JAMEL GARRETT

# 2022 Gilberto Castañeda Scholar Award

The Gilberto Castañeda Scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of Gilberto Castañeda, the adopted son of Dr. Theodore Jennings and Rev. Ronna Case. This award honors outstanding, openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students at Chicago Theological Seminary. It is an expression of the seminary's commitment to transform congregations from places of hostility and alienation to communities of hospitality and empowerment.

WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE CASTAÑEDA-JENNINGS LECTURE  
JUNE 8, 6:30PM

# 2022 G. Campbell Morgan Preaching Award

The G. Campbell Morgan Award in preaching is awarded to a current Chicago Theological Seminary Master of Divinity student who excels at the work of preaching. The award is in honor of The Rev. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan (DD 1902) who was voted one of the ten greatest preachers of the twentieth century. He was a genius of expository preaching, unfolding the biblical text with rigor, compassion, imagination, and art.

OLIVIA TATE

# 2022 Sanderson Award for Women in Leadership

The Sanderson Award for Women in Leadership was established in 2006 in memory of Judith Parks Sanderson who died in 2004 after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. Judith Parks Sanderson had an outstanding career as an educational development manager with leadership roles at William & Mary College, Princeton University, and University of Chicago during a time when women in managerial roles were rare as "the glass ceiling" limited opportunity. She planned to assist startup not for profits in their development efforts and wanted to mentor younger women who showed management promise. This annual award is given to an outstanding woman candidate to assist in furthering her career.

JAIME L. FLUKER

## Speaker: Dr. Brad R. Braxton



Dr. Brad R. Braxton is President and Professor of Public Theology at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is also the Senior Program Advisor for Creative Encounters, Living Religions in the United States, the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on religious diversity, and the Founding Senior Pastor of The Open Church, an inclusive congregation in Baltimore, Maryland committed to social activism, LGBTQ+ equality, and interfaith collaboration.

He holds a PhD in New Testament studies from Emory University, where he was a George W. Woodruff Fellow, a master's degree in theology from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and a BA degree in religious studies from the University of Virginia, where he was a Jefferson Scholar and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

## Honorary Degree: Elder David Wallace



Elder David Wallace is a Spokane prayer warrior. An elder at Central Seventh-day Adventist Church for 20 years, David has been chairman of the Central Prayer Team, a worship leader, a part of leadership team for the Junior Sabbath School, a greeter, and a volunteer for many Central activities. He is a retired chairman of the Better Living Center and vice president of He's Alive Television. He also was an elder at the Deer Park Seventh-day Adventist Church for 10 years.

He has been Coordinator of the Spokane World Prayer Team, an interdenominational prayer body meeting weekly to pray for the nations and leaders of ministries in Eastern Washington and from around the world, since 2005. He is also part of the prayer ministry each week at the Union Gospel Mission. Elder Wallace is a founding member of the Spokane Fatherhood Initiative, a two-year endeavor devoted to three legs of fathering children. First is encouraging healthy Christian families to become foster care and adoption families for children in the Washington foster care system. Second, is developing ministry for men in Christian churches. It is important to appeal to men with 21st Century challenges to go forth with the gospel and train other men in discipleship. Third, is developing youth mentorships on training, especially focused on teaching young men how to be men with preparation for Christian adulthood with a healthy hope for their lives and future families.

Following graduation from Texas A&M University, Elder Wallace spent two years in Tanzania, East Africa, in community development in forming the Tanganyika YMCA in the new nation. He continued his community emphasis with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, organized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Chicago, Illinois, beginning while he was a student at Chicago Theological Seminary.

David Wallace was born in Pecos, Texas. A graduate of Pecos High School, he graduated from Texas A&M with a BA degree in History and minors in Political Science and English. He and his wife Cheryl live in Spokane. His sons are Joshua of Scottsdale, Arizona; Stephen with wife Rachel of Redmond, Oregon; and Noah with wife Sabine of Salzburg, Austria.

## Distinguished Alumni Awardee: Rev. Sharon Ellis Davis, PhD



Dr. Sharon Ellis Davis is a retired United Church of Christ pastor serving for over 30 years as pastor in various settings. Sharon also served as a Chicago Police Officer for 31 years, working in the patrol division, and as a Criminalist in the Chicago Police Crime Laboratory Division examining crime scene evidence and testified in court as an expert witness in the field of Forensic Science. She also served the Department as its first African American female police chaplain, serving officers and their families especially in times when officers are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty until her retirement. Dr. Ellis Davis currently serves as an Affiliated Professor with McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois and Assistant Visiting Professor in Pastoral Leadership and Ethics, Lexington, Kentucky.

Dr. Ellis Davis previously served as a mentor with United Theological Seminary, Dayton Ohio for twelve years, leading over fifty Doctor of Ministry students through their Doctor of Ministry degrees. Dr. Ellis Davis is a trainer with Faith Trust Institute based in Seattle, Washington providing training and resources to pastors and congregational leaders in healthy church boundaries and safe and healthy churches. She teaches courses such as: Sexual & Domestic Violence; Pastoral Care in Times of Crisis and Trauma; Mass Incarceration and the Criminal Justice System, and Christian Social Ethics. Dr. Ellis Davis is a nationally recognized speaker in the field of domestic violence and sexual violence especially as it relates to issues of race, class, culture, & Gender and other intersections. She is a retired board-certified chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains.

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