



SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
**COMMENCEMENT**  
CLASS OF 2024

*University of Redlands, Marin Campus  
San Anselmo, California  
May 18, 2024*



---

*Degrees awarded in the ceremony are conditional upon completion of course requirements in accordance with University policies. Candidates listed are approved for participation in the commencement ceremonies. Participation is not an official indication of graduation. Degrees are conferred on the first official conferral date after degree requirements (required coursework, non-coursework, and necessary supporting documents) are completed. Honors recognized in the ceremony may be changed based on the processing of final grades.*

---



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

## OPENING PROCESSION

### Presiding

Krista L. Newkirk, J.D.  
*President, University of Redlands*

### Faculty Marshal

Dr. Christopher Ocker  
*Professor of the History of Christianity,  
University of Redlands*

### Academic Procession

Please stand if you are able.

### Processional

*Procession of the Nobles*  
by Rimsky-Korsakov  
Natsuko Murayama, organist

## CEREMONY

### Acknowledgement of the Traditional Owners of the Land

The Rev. Paul Gaffney  
*Co-Chaplain, Educator, Association of Clinical  
Pastoral Education, Manager of Clinical  
Pastoral Education Program*

### Invocation

The Rev. Joey Lee  
*Chair of the Board of Directors of  
San Francisco Theological Seminary*

### Welcome

Dr. Uriah Kim  
*President and John Dillenberger Professor of  
Biblical Studies, Graduate Theological Union*

Rev. Dr. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina  
*Dean, San Francisco Theological Seminary  
Shaw Chair of Pastoral Care and Education,  
Director, Shaw Chaplaincy Institute*

### Welcome and Recognition of Graduates and Guests

President Krista L. Newkirk

### A Musical Interlude

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*  
from the 1723 Advent Cantata  
by Johann Sebastian Bach  
Natsuko Murayama, organist

### Recognition of the 2023-2024 Awards

Community Life Award  
Seminary Academic Achievement Award  
Distinguished Alumni Award  
Adrienne McCormick, Ph.D.  
*Provost, University of Redlands*

### Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Divinity

President Krista L. Newkirk  
Provost Adrienne McCormick  
The Rev. Dr. Laurie Garrett-Cobbina

### Commencement Address

Mr. Michael Steven Wilson  
*Human Rights Activist*

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

## **Musical Interlude Alumni Chorus**

*"How Great Thou Art"*

by Carl Boberg (1885)

The Rev. Marissa Danney, M.Div., DASD 2014

Dr. Michael Cobbina, D.Min. 2012, MBOL 2021

The Rev. Paul Gaffney, M.Div. 2004, CPE 2020,

DMin. Candidate

## **Presentation of Diploma and Certificate Candidates**

Dr. John Falcone

*Ford Visiting Professor of Practical Theology*

## **Conferring of Diplomas and Certificates**

President Krista L. Newkirk

## **Presentation of Graduate Degree Candidates**

The Rev. Ruth T. West

*Associate Dean of San Francisco*

*Theological Seminary*

## **Conferring of Graduate Degrees**

President Krista L. Newkirk

## **Presentation of Doctoral Candidates**

Associate Dean Rev. Ruth T. West

## **Conferring of Doctoral Degrees**

President Krista L. Newkirk

## **A Musical Interlude**

*Prelude in D minor (1905)*

by Ottorino Respighi

Natsuko Murayama, organist

## **Charge to the Graduates**

The Rev. Dr. Greg Love, Professor of

Systematic Theology on behalf of

Dr. Wendy Farley, Director, Program in

Christian Spirituality, Rice Family

Professor of Spirituality

## **Prayer for the Graduates, the Seminary, the Church, the University, and the World**

The Rev. Dr. Ernest L. Jackson

*Pastor, Grace Tabernacle Community Church*

## **Benediction**

The Rev. Marissa Danney, Associate Chaplain,

San Francisco Theological Seminary

## **Recessional**

*Crown Imperial*

by William Walton

Natsuko Murayama, organist

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



**MICHAEL STEVEN WILSON**

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY

Mike Wilson is a Native American (Tohono O’odham) human rights activist. He was born in 1949 in the village of Wac in the San Xavier District of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Mike has worked as a teacher and a Presbyterian lay pastor. He served for 22 years in the U.S. Army Special Forces. From 1988 - 1989 he was a military advisor to the Army of El Salvador during that country’s brutal civil war. During this period, he witnessed the horrors of a military dictatorship, extreme poverty and the injustices of war. Against his District (Baboquivari) Council’s order, from 2002 - 2014 Mike maintained many life-saving water stations on the O’odham reservation for undocumented migrants crossing tribal lands. He has participated in numerous documentary and feature films and panels about the border. He holds a BA in Spanish, with a minor in History, from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and did Graduate studies at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is the co-author with José Antonio Lucero, PhD, of “What Side Are You On? A Tohono O’odham Life across Borders“ to be released June 2024 by the University of North Carolina Press. Mike is currently in production as co-director with Victoria Westover of the documentary film “Whose Land? O’odham Land” to be released in 2025.



**REV. DR. SHARON STANLEY-REA**

M.DIV. 1989

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea is an ordained clergy in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), also with clergy standing in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. She has over three decades of grassroots and national expertise in direct programmatic development, refugee organizational leadership, policy and advocacy, and community education in refugee resettlement and sponsorship, immigrant rights and legislation, asylum seeker policies, and unaccompanied children services. Sharon has Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Politics from St. Andrews Presbyterian College, a Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary. She also received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from the University of Lynchburg. After graduation, Sharon spent more than 13 years in a California community nicknamed after a refugee camp in Thailand. She founded and directed a multi-service refugee organization in Fresno, California, nationally led Refugee & Immigration Ministries for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination, and currently is Director of the Washington, DC regional office for Church World Service global refugee and development organization. Rev. Stanley-Rea is deeply committed to refugee resettlement as one of our nation’s most successful public/private and bipartisan partnerships in U.S. history. She has won multiple human rights, justice, and advocacy awards, and has moderated numerous national and local press conferences, vigils, and community actions related to refugee resettlement and the benefits immigrants offer to both local neighborhoods and to the character and strength of our nation.

---

*Organized in 1881, the Alumni Association of San Francisco Theological Seminary selected a distinguished graduate to address the seminary at its 1881 Commencement. We have continued the tradition ever since.*

---



# SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## CERTIFICATE, DIPLOMA, AND GRADUATE CANDIDATES

### Certificate Recipients

#### Clinical Pastoral Education

Charlotte Cramer (2)  
Ryan Knauber  
Andrew Lee  
Alexandria Spearman (3)  
Hadezbah (Dez) Kuimelis  
Daisy Bodman  
Hyung Do Lee  
Grace Kim  
Joseph Ryley Moore  
Margaret Howe  
Megan MacIver  
Chitoka Webb  
Jammal Wright

#### Trauma & Spiritual Care

Courtney Arntzen  
Kathleen Boland  
Mary Craig  
Doshin Ende  
Nicole Fitzgerald  
Shayne Flowers  
Ronald Fox  
Olivia Good  
John Morgan  
Mary Neubauer  
Patricia Reese  
Francisco Sagrero  
Marianna Sempari  
Pamela Spearman  
Samuel Wilson

### Spiritual Direction & Formation

Paul Blankenship  
Jenell Coker  
Cindy Matteson  
Abby Norlin Weaver  
Sabrina Roblin  
Cora Weiland  
Kim Womack

### Theological Studies

Samuel Wilson

### Diploma Recipients

#### Art of Spiritual Direction

Alpidia Barrazza  
Elinor Jannotta

### Master's Degrees

#### Master of Arts in Theological Studies

Paul Barsky  
Bette Carr-Walton  
Jaimie Fales  
Victoria Lowery  
Samantha Niccholson

#### Master of Divinity

Aaron McKee  
Joseph Ryley Moore  
Jacey Sheets  
Wendy Welborn

# SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND AWARDS

### Doctorate of Ministry

**Davena Leance Jones**

*It is Our Business! Intimate Partner  
Violence Awareness and Preparedness  
in the Black Church*

**Katie Harmon-McLaughlin**

*Dynamics of Intercultural Communal  
Discernment*

**Peter Loi Chang**

*Overcoming the Hurdle of Ancestor  
Veneration and the Welcoming Church*

**Seungkee Jang**

*Spiritual Discrepancy and the Image of  
the Divine Spiritual Assessment Model  
for Intersectionality: Spiritual  
Transformation and Reincarnation*

**Ernest L. Jackson**

*Reimagining Paul for a Pentecostal  
Future: Challenging Doctrinal  
Marginalization of Women in Ministry*

### Awards and Honors

The faculty awards two graduating M.Div. students who have maintained a high standard of achievement at SFTS, and who show outstanding potential for leadership in the church and in the world.

#### Community Life Award

*This award continues a tradition established by the Seminary's Alumni Association in 1906 and is given to an outstanding Master of Divinity student who has also made an outstanding contribution to our community life.*

**Aaron L. McKee, M.Div. '24**

#### Seminary Academic Achievement Award

*This award continues a tradition of the Seminary Fellowship and is given to a student who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement.*

**Wendy L. Welborn, M.Div. '24**





# CONGRATULATIONS

## Welcome to your Alumni Association!

Update your info and let us know what you're doing.

→ [www.redlands.edu/updateyourinformation](http://www.redlands.edu/updateyourinformation)



## Office of Career & Professional Development

Take advantage of this free resource after graduation—practice for interviews, negotiate salary, and next steps!

→ [ocpd.redlands.edu](http://ocpd.redlands.edu)



## Honor Your Graduate!

Make a gift to the San Francisco Theological Seminary in honor of your favorite graduate.

→ [www.givecampus.com/campaigns/33564/donations/new?a=6682810](http://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/33564/donations/new?a=6682810)



## Graduate Degree Programs

We offer a flexible path toward achieving your goals.

### Business & STEM

- MBA
- MBA in Sustainable Solutions
- MBA/MPA in Sustainable Solutions
- M.S. in Business Analytics
- M.S. in Geographic Information Systems
- **##**Master of Geographic Information Systems
- Executive Master of Geographic Information Systems

### Leadership

- Master of Public Policy & Administration
- M.S. in Organizational Leadership
- **##**Doctorate in Leadership for Educational Justice

- **##**Doctorate in Leadership for Educational Justice
- M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs
- M.A. in Education, School and District Leadership
- Credential: Preliminary Administrative Services Credential

### Education & Teaching

- **##**M.A. in Education, Learning and Teaching
- **##**Credentials: Multiple/Single Subject or Mild/Moderate
- Education Specialist
- Dual: Multiple/Single Subject with Mild/Moderate
- Education Specialist
- M.A. in Education, Analytics and Learning Design

### ## Professional Tracks

- M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- **##**M.A. in Education, School Counseling
- **##**M.S. in Communication Sciences & Disorders

### Music

- Master of Music in Multiple Subjects
- **##**Artist Diploma

### Theology

- Master of Divinity
- **##**M.A. in Theological Studies
- **##**Doctor of Ministry

→ [www.redlands.edu/grad](http://www.redlands.edu/grad)





UNIVERSITY OF  
**Redlands**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

SAN FRANCISCO  
THEOLOGICAL  
SEMINARY



Moved by God's love in Jesus Christ, San Francisco Theological Seminary prepares persons for transformational ministries of justice, peace, and healing, which advance the Church's hopeful, loving engagement with the world.

As an ecumenical Christian graduate program, we offer a rigorous education, focused on critical theological reflection that equips graduates from all walks of life to meet the urgent needs of our times through both time-honored and innovative ministries.

Founded in 1871 and affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we value dialogue and engagement with other religions and faith traditions. Our grounding in the Reformed tradition fosters faith-filled engagement in public life and service to others. Located on the Pacific Rim and inspired by the diverse global expressions of Christian faith, we partner with educational institutions throughout the world to enrich our program and expand our understanding of God's redemptive work in human history.

SFTS is a founding member of the Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of Protestant and Catholic theological schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. SFTS students take classes at all the GTU seminaries as well as the GTU's centers and affiliates for the study of Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and other world religions.

As a community, we are united in the desire to create an inclusive atmosphere where diversity flourishes in all its forms. We are called to live inside God's beautiful family, and that means pursuing justice, knowledge, dignity, and well-being for all people. From our students to our staff to our faculty and beyond, we want to foster a just community that embraces differences—both here on campus and in the world.



SAN FRANCISCO  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

[www.redlands.edu/gst](http://www.redlands.edu/gst)