



# COMMENCEMENT

CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



**BAYAN**  
ISLAMIC GRADUATE SCHOOL

*Friday, the Thirteenth of May  
Two Thousand Twenty-Two*

First Congregational Church of Western Springs  
Streamed Live on YouTube  
Speaker: Bishop Yvette A. Flunder





May 13, 2022

Dear Graduates,

What an incredible year this has been! It truly has been a year of interims. At the beginning of the year, I was appointed Interim President at the same time that Rabbi Dr. Rachel Mikva was named Interim Dean. These appointments marked a transitional time for CTS, one of which I am proud to have been a part. I want to thank Dean Mikva for her service, as well as CTS Board Chair Brian Clarke for providing me with the opportunity to serve at CTS.

We have all been through a lot these past few years. The pandemic changed so much about how we learn, teach, study, and grow, both mentally and spiritually. I am incredibly proud of how our students have responded to this crisis: with the grace and understanding for which they are known. The fact that you stand here today, ready to graduate and go out into the world to be the next generation of spiritual leaders, is a testament to your tenacity and perseverance. I am awed by the way you have adapted over the last two years.

I also want to congratulate our honorary degree awardees, Mariame Kaba and Bishop Yvette Flunder. It is of particular excitement to me to know that Bishop Flunder, my own pastor, is being honored by CTS. Her incredible spirit will inspire and illuminate your souls, as will Mariame's incredible history of activism against the prison-industrial complex.

I want to extend my regrets for not being present. Please know that today, you will all be in my thoughts and prayers. It is my fervent hope that this commencement marks not an end but a new beginning. As you go out into the world, I hope you remember that we are all called by the divine, whatever that means to each of us individually, to be of service to others. CTS has trained you well; now, go out into the world and make it a place that is more fully inclusive, accepting, and loving.

I wish you the very best on this auspicious occasion. Congratulations to each and every one of our graduates!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha Foster Boyd". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Marsha Foster Boyd  
Interim President  
Chicago Theological Seminary



May 13, 2022

Dear Graduates,

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

We began our partnership with CTS in earnest in the Fall of 2019, matriculating a growing number of students who are excited to develop a deeper appreciation of the rich Islamic intellectual tradition, and to study alongside peers representing many diverse faiths and life stances to better understand and engage communities in fruitful ways.

This year, with gratitude to God, we are thrilled to witness the first cohort of Bayan graduates with concentrations in Islamic Studies and Islamic Chaplaincy, who will join our growing nationwide alumni network as transformative leaders and scholars. Join me in celebrating the inaugural 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, Founding President  
Bayan Islamic Graduate School

# Order of Service

GATHERING MUSIC.....RANDALL JOHNSON, PIANIST

PROCESSION.....THE CHICAGO BUCKET BOYS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, CALL TO  
WORSHIP, AND LIGHTING OF CHALICE .....CONSUELO BALLOM AND JACQUI HOCHSTIN

PRAYER: "THE OPENING".....ISHAQ MAJEED AND KORI MAJEED

GREETINGS.....CTS BOARD CHAIR BRIAN CLARKE AND BAYAN PRESIDENT JIHAD TURK

ACADEMIC NOTICES.....INTERIM DEAN RACHEL MIKVA

MUSIC: "WE ARE" (RECORDING).....YSAYE BARNWELL

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES.....DR. CHRISTOPHE RINGER (MARIAME KABA)  
DR. JOANNE MARIE TERRELL (BISHOP YVETTE A. FLUNDER)

ADDRESS.....BISHOP YVETTE A. FLUNDER

## READINGS:

JEREMIAH 29.....KIM GRICE

"IF PRAYER WOULD DO IT" .....MATTHEW HACKWORTH

"I AM AS MY SERVANT THINKS I AM" .....ISHAQ MAJEED

CONFERRING OF DEGREES.....CTS INTERIM DEAN RACHEL MIKVA  
BAYAN VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS MUNIR SHAIKH  
CTS BOARD CHAIR BRIAN CLARKE  
BAYAN PRESIDENT JIHAD TURK  
CTS BOARD MEMBER JANET MACLEAN  
ASSOCIATE DEAN EMILY VOGT

FACULTY CHARGE.....DR. BO MYUNG SEO

GRADUATE RESPONSE.....WILL COBBS

MUSIC: "HAPPY" (RECORDING).....PHARRELL WILLIAMS

LITANY OF THANKS (SEE NEXT PAGE).....TARIQ EL-AMIN AND HALEY HUDLER

BENEDICTION.....BAYAN PRESIDENT JIHAD TURK

RECESSIONAL: "HAPPY" (RECORDING).....PHARRELL WILLIAMS

# Litany of Thanks

- Leader: To the dedicated and supportive Staff of CTS and Bayan, thank you for all you do to keep these schools operating and thriving. Either through direct conversations with you or through the work you do behind the scenes; we value you and thank you for the role you play...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: To the Faculty, we thank you for cultivating a learning environment that allows us to ask the big, tough questions. You pushed us to grow, to become fully prepared religious leaders and theological scholars. Through your compassion and grace – you have molded our understanding of the divine, of human community, and of justice, in new ways...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: To the Trustees, thank you for your vision and leadership that is committed to the values of CTS and Bayan. Your dedication to our communities is felt deeply...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: To our Pastors, Rabbis, Imams, Spiritual leaders, and Community Members, thank you for encouraging us to pursue our vocations, in all of the unique forms of service to which we each have been called. Through a program of graduate study that has tested not only our minds but also our hearts and souls, your encouragement “to keep going” was essential ...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: To each other, to those we have shared courses with at Bayan and CTS, certainly, our deepest learning has happened through each other, through our discussions inside and outside of the classroom—whether physical or virtual. These memories together have formed how we understand our faith and theology, our knowledge and our activism ...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: And, finally, to our Family and Friends, our dear ones both given and chosen, thank you for listening to us, believing in our dreams, and supporting us on this journey. We could not have accomplished this without you...
- Graduates: ...and for this, we give you THANKS!
- Leader: Let us pray.
- Holy One, God of many names, we rejoice and give thanks to You for transforming us. We thank You for your presence along the way. And in this celebration, as one-chapter closes, lead us into new beginnings, lead us on the path you have cleared for us, with courage and strength, that we might help build a world where all may thrive! I pray in the name of God, even as we all pray in many names which you have manifested yourself ... and let all who may say ...
- All: ...Amen, Ameen, and Ashe!

# 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 lifespaces;
- 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 164 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 2022

## THE CERTIFICATE OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Christopher Davis

Margot Joy Lyon



## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

Roland A. Caldwell, Jr



## THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Alexis Calcano

Will Otis Cobbs, Jr.

Elizabeth Louise Ferguson

Nicole Gagliardi

Haley Joan Hudler

Jerra Jenrette

Wilfred Moore

April Smith

Mary Lee Turk

Mina Yi

Cynthia Yussuf

**ISLAMIC STUDIES**

Lina Aljijakli

Ensar Demirkan

Neda Samir Haggag

Kori Majeed

Ishaq Hamidullah Majeed, II

Malaz Mohamad

Tauheed Ali Rashad

Sajid Settles



**THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY**

**ISLAMIC CHAPLAINCY**

Tariq Ali Ameer

Kassim Mohammed Balla

Tyerre Boyd

Tariq I. El-Amin

Mohammed Mansur Lawal

Zoya Mirza

Saifullah Mian Muhammad

Tamim Saidi

## **MASTER OF DIVINITY**

Sara MacGivra Branom	Geraldine G. Idom
Kesha Brown	Susan Joy Loving
Deborah L. Davis	Alyssa Y. Maldonado
Seamus Jerome Enright	Tamika Monique Nelson
Valerie Marie Fenton-Seaver	Adrienne Philpart
Consuelo V. Frederick	Kelly Anne Ravenscraft
Russ Scott Goliger	Annmarie Lofy Rubin
Kim Marie Grice	Christina Ann Schoenwetter
Matthew Earl Hackworth	Tiffany Thorne
Cricket Hall	Jeremy L. Wallace
Jacqueline Ann Hochstin	Brandon Edward Yaghjian-Tison
Mandi Huizenga	



## **THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SACRED THEOLOGY**

Lindsay Michelle Cowett  
Frederick Lamont Smith

**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MINISTRY**

Patricia Carson

Janet Kay Copeland

Harvey Davis

Jeremy Lopez

Craig Nathaniel Mathies, Sr.

Chiyong Oh

Curtis Thomas

Sheila Renee Wallace

Lewis Nathaniel Watson



**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

Sang Hun Han

Aaron Higashi

Malene Minor Johnson

Melanie Chante Jones

Eugene Muhammad

# 2022 C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award

The C. Shelby Rooks Scholar Award acknowledges the outstanding work of a particular 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.

ADRIENNE PHILPART



# 2022 Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Award

The Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman Interreligious Award is presented to a student who designs a particular 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.

LEO WOLTERS TEJERA



# 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.

LEIKA LEWIS-CORNWELL



# 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.

JACQUI SKINNER



# 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.

EMILY VOGT

## Honorary Degree: Bishop Yvette A. Flunder



Bishop Yvette A. Flunder founded the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. City of Refuge is a thriving inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Preaching a message of action, the church has experienced steady numerical and spiritual growth and is now located in the south of Market area of San Francisco at 1025 Howard Street.

A native San Franciscan, Bishop Flunder is a third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. She was licensed in the COGIC and later ordained by the Bishop Walter Hawkins of Love Center Ministries where she served as Associate Pastor and administrator for the Oakland-based Love Center Church.

In 1984 Bishop Flunder began performing and recording with "Walter Hawkins and the Family" and the Love Center Choir. Other gospel music recordings include "There's Power" with the City of Refuge Praise Ensemble, "We Won't Be Silent Anymore" with The Fellowship Mass Choir, and "How Sweet the Sound", with the Grammy Award winning Chanticleer.

Bishop Flunder is also an ordained Minister of the United Church of Christ and a graduate of the Ministry Studies and Master of Arts programs at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo California. In June 2003 Bishop Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship a multi-denominational fellowship of 110 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the United States, Mexico and Africa.

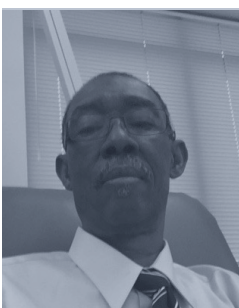
## Honorary Degree: Mariame Kaba



Mariame Kaba is an organizer, educator and curator. Her work focuses on ending violence, dismantling the prison industrial complex, transformative justice and supporting youth leadership development. She is the founder and director of Project NIA, a grassroots organization with a vision to end youth incarceration. Prior to starting NIA, Mariame worked as a program officer for education and youth development at the Steans Family Foundation where she focused on grantmaking and program evaluation.

Mariame has co-founded multiple organizations and projects over the years including the Chicago Freedom School, the Chicago Taskforce on Violence against Girls and Young Women, the Chicago Alliance to Free Marissa Alexander and the Rogers Park Young Women's Action Team (YWAT), and Survived and Punished, among others.

## Distinguished Alumni Awardee: Elder Thomas M. Hughes



Elder Thomas M. Hughes was born in Kingstree, South Carolina during the era of segregation. He broke the color barrier in standardized testing, becoming the first African American student in eastern South Carolina to take the SAT exam. Elder Hughes advanced to Allen University, earning a bachelors degree in mathematics, and he eventually became an elementary school teacher.

Elder Hughes was born and raised in the African Methodist Episcopal Church tradition, the son of a preacher, and the Church called to him. Realizing he needed proper seminary training, his path led him to Chicago Theological Seminary in the mid-70s. A stellar student during his time here, Elder Hughes also was an entrepreneur, starting his own mortuary business as he matriculated as a student.

Through the years, Elder Hughes built a successful mortuary business and became an Elder in the AME 4th District, covering portions of Canada and the upper Midwest of the United States. At the height of his career, he had oversight of more than 50 churches. After 50 years of faithful service, Elder Hughes retired in the summer of 2020.

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