



2024 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 18, 2024 2:00 PM
First Baptist Church of Glenarden
Ministry Center


DENVER SEMINARY®
Washington DC



GRADUATION CELEBRATION SERVICE

DON PAYNE, PHD PRESIDING

Prelude

*Processional

Welcome Rev. Debora Barr
DC Site Director

Invocation and Recognition of

Denver Seminary Community Rev. Debora Barr

Dr. Don Payne, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Academic Dean
Dr. Carla Brown, Urban Initiatives Professor
Rev. Iantha Brown, Recruiter/Urban Initiatives Community Liaison

Scripture Reading, Proverbs 19:20-21 Jacob Bigley
MDiv Chaplaincy Student

Address Dr. Don Payne
Vice President of Academic Affairs, Academic Dean

*Praise Song Rev. Dr. Keith Brown

Recognition of Urban Initiatives Students Rev. Iantha Brown
Dr. Carla Brown

Presentation of Graduates Rev. Debora Barr

Granting of Degrees Dr. Don Payne

*>Prayer for Graduates & Benediction Dr. Carla Brown

Recessional

**Please stand.*

> Gentlemen, please remove your caps.

Please turn off all cell phones in the sanctuary.

PRAISE SONGS

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory
To God be the glory
To God be the glory
For the things He has done

ALPHA AND OMEGA

You are Alpha and Omega
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

Bridge

We give You all the glory
We worship You our Lord
You are worthy to be praised

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DON PAYNE, PhD

**VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS,
ACADEMIC DEAN, PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY**



Dr. Don Payne was named the VP of Academic Affairs, Academic Dean in 2021. He joined the Seminary in 1998 as director of the suburban and rural training centers in the Training and Mentoring department.

In 2001, he was appointed as associate dean and provided overall leadership for the Training and Mentoring program until 2013. In 2004, he was appointed as assistant professor of theology and ministry, then in 2013 as associate professor of Theology and Christian Formation.

Dr. Payne earned a PhD in systematic theology from the University of Manchester, England, an MDiv from Denver Seminary, and a BA from Tennessee Temple University. Prior to coming to Denver Seminary, he pastored for eight years, first as a church-planting pastor in Chattanooga, Tennessee, then as an associate pastor at Southern Gables Evangelical Free Church in Littleton, Colorado. Most recently, he has served as an interim pastor at Castle Oaks Covenant Church in Castle Rock, Colorado. He has taught courses for Colorado Christian University, Colorado State University, and Moody Bible Institute's extension school. Since 2000, he has served occasionally as a consultant and trainer for public and private-sector organizations seeking to develop effective mentoring programs. He hosts Denver Seminary's podcast, *Engage360*.

His publications include *Already Sanctified*, *Surviving the Unthinkable*, *The Theology of the Christian Life in J. I. Packer's Thought*, chapters in *J.I. Packer and the Evangelical Future*, *A Case for Historic Premillennialism*, and *Preparing for Ministry*, as well as articles and book reviews in *The 1995 Seminary & Graduate School Handbook*, *Themelios*, *Teaching Theology and Religion Review*, *Compass*, and *Focal Point*. He has co-authored *Discipleship with a Capital "D": What the Bible Teaches About Mentoring and Launching and Sustaining Mentoring in Your Ministry Setting*.

INSTITUTE OF MINISTERIAL STUDIES PARTICIPANTS

Denver Seminary serves urban communities through the Urban Initiative's Institute of Ministerial Studies. This lay-level program is designed to equip adult men and women to serve more confidently in positions of leadership in their church, Christian organization, or place of work. The following students have satisfactorily completed the Lay Ministry Program.

LAY MINISTRY PROGRAM

CANDIDATE

Karen Anderson	Tolores Holmes
Tiffany Bullock	Mycale Radcliffe
Rhodenia Coram	Crystal Stewart
Carolyn R. Dupree	Angela Q. Wellington
Thomas M. Ferguson	Darlene Wright Wesley
Earl Gurley	Patricia Ann White

GRADUATES

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

CANDIDATE	DEGREE (MAJOR)	CERTIFICATE/TRACK
Alesa Edison	Leadership	
Delores Marie Harris	Leadership	
Stacy L. Smith	Leadership	Christian Formation
Lily Zhu*	Counseling	Clinical Mental Health

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

CANDIDATE

Antonio Mitchell
Massawa Stevens-Morrison

** Master of Arts in Counseling, (clinical mental health) graduate from the Denver Seminary campus in Colorado, December 2023, before moving to Maryland to serve as a mental health therapist.*

This program was accurate at the time it went to press. However, it is not intended to be an official list of graduates. Degree conferral is subject to the satisfactory completion of any remaining requirements.

STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES



Karen Anderson

Karen is a lifelong member of Wayland Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. She serves as the church clerk and a member of the Media Ministry. Her life has been a series of blessings and challenges, and God has been with her through it all. Spiritual growth and study are ongoing processes, and she loves sharing the Good News.



Tiffany C. Bullock

Tiffany is a devoted wife to Anthony Bullock, a loving mother of five—three biological children and two cherished bonus children. As a faithful member and employee of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, she serves as the ministry coordinator in the Education and Training department, fostering spiritual growth and development within the community. Tiffany's commitment to family, faith, and service exemplifies her unwavering dedication to discipling the lives of others.



Rhodenia Coram

Rhodenia is a transportation supervisor at the Giant Food Transportation Department. She holds a bachelor of science degree in math with a minor in education. She is CEO of “Blessed Hand Incorporated”—a nonprofit that builds strong and healthy relationships between mothers and their daughters by cultivating positive conversations and providing educational training and resources to help improve and maintain healthy communication. She attends First Bethel Baptist Church in Camp Springs, Maryland, and serves on the Deaconess Board.



Carolyn R. Dupree

Carolyn attends First Baptist Church of Glenarden and serves in several ministries. She has a heart to serve God and His people. Carolyn holds an honorary doctorate in Humanities, and her company recognized her as Ambassador of the Year for outreach. Her mentors inspired her to continue her education, and she plans to pursue a master of arts in leadership at Denver Seminary.



Alesa Nicole Edison

Hailing from Pontiac, Michigan, Alesa Edison's academic journey reached a milestone at Grand Valley State University, where she earned her bachelor of arts degree with a double major in entrepreneurship and general management. Through the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit, she found herself at the Washington DC campus in 2018. Alesa envisions her leadership degree from Denver Seminary will help lead her into spaces God ordained for her.



Thomas M. Ferguson

Thomas is a retired federal employee who served for 33 years in various roles. He is passionate about cooking and enjoys sharing his culinary skills with others. He is a devout Christian who loves spreading God's word and inspiring people with his faith. Thomas is grateful for the opportunities and blessings the Lord has given him.



Earl Gurley

Earl lives in South Carolina and belongs to Charity Missionary Baptist Church, where Rev. Nelson B. Rivers III is his Pastor. He was licensed as a minister in August 2021 in North Charleston. He enjoys helping others grow in Christ and teaching about our Lord and Savior. He enjoys cruising and visiting various countries with his beautiful wife of 38 years. His ambition is to follow God's life path for him and hear Him say, "*Well done, my good and faithful servant.*"



Delores Marie Harris

Minister Delores Harris is a native Washingtonian who will continue studies at Regent University. She is an author, teacher, and licensed minister at Spirit of Faith Christian Center, under the leadership of Apostle Michael Freeman and Dr. Deloris Freeman. Delores has served in the education marketplace for over two decades, combining the private and public sectors and extending educational services to children, youth, and young adults. She also tutors adult students in obtaining their G.E.D.



Tolores Colleen Holmes

Tolores is a native Washingtonian. She accepted Christ at the age of nine. She desires to glorify God by serving persons who find their lives shattered by domestic violence. Tolores is a registered nurse who graduated from the Marymount University School of Nursing. Her future education plans include pursuing a master of arts in counseling from Denver Seminary.



Antonio Marquis Mitchell

Minister Antonio (Toney) Mitchell was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. In 2003, he joined The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square. In the fall of 2023, Toney completed the master of divinity program at Denver Seminary. Although he is very proud of this accomplishment, he is most proud of his roles as husband, father, grandfather, and servant leader.



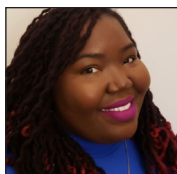
Mycale Radcliffe

Mycale has diverse passions, from engineering to literature to movies and other video entertainment. The wonder and joy that comes from learning something new and using what he has learned to appreciate, understand, and shape the world is what unites his passions. He hopes to continue his education in the same spirit.



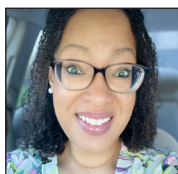
Stacy L. Smith

Reverend Stacy L. Smith (#MinistryMom) is the daughter of Mrs. Lenora Wilson and the late Rev. Dr. James H. Wilson, Jr. She's married to Charles for over 32 years, and they have two young adult sons—Brandon and Ryan. She was raised in Prince Georges County, Maryland, and lived overseas for almost a decade. While living in Denmark, Switzerland, and England, she served in leadership roles with Women's Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, and Sunday School. God also led Rev. Smith and others to plant an English-speaking church in Bern, Switzerland. Rev. Smith served as a middle/high school teacher for over a decade before going into full-time ministry. She is a mental health educator and certified Mental Health First Aide instructor. Stacy is a member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden. She's grateful to God and all her professors, mentors, supporters, family, and friends who helped her earn this degree.



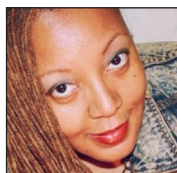
Massawa Stevens-Morrison

Massawa is an educator of fifteen years and a licensed minister from Union Baptist Church of Harlem, New York, currently residing in Columbia, Maryland. She works as director of Residency Experience with City Teaching Alliance DC. She is the proud mother of twins—Toni and Langston, and she is happily married to her husband of nine years, Stanley. She receives this degree in memory of her mother, Edna Stevens.



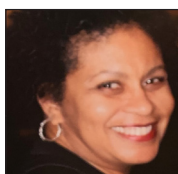
Crystal Stewart

Crystal is a native of Southern Maryland who is proud of her country-girl roots. She has been a First Baptist Church of Glenarden member since 2022. Crystal is passionate about studying the word of God and sharing what she learns with others. Her greatest passion is to be outside among those serving in outreach, missions, and evangelism. She finds joy in seeing the transformational power of Jesus at work in people's lives.



Angela Q. Wellington

Angela found herself in ministry when a poem she wrote reached women worldwide. Her story of brokenness, bitterness, and bewilderedness led her to put pen to paper. Through her transparency, God allowed her to touch the lives of other women, helping them acknowledge and work through their issues and renew their minds. Her spoken word ministry opened the door to opportunities that would allow her to start a group with ladies at Capital Baptist Church in Annandale, Virginia. This ministry provided a safe place where women could find support and motivation on their journey as followers of God. The group is now called “Bondage Breakers: Women Warriors for Christ.”



Darlene Wright Wesley

Darlene is married to James Wesley, who is very supportive in helping her to succeed in her ministries. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden and is a facilitator for the Bereavement Arms of the Healing, Transition, and Bereavement Ministry. For several years, Darlene was a facilitator for the Queen Esther Ministry. After completing the Lay Ministry Program, Darlene plans to continue her education at Denver Seminary.



Patricia Ann White

As a dedicated theology student, Patricia completed her journey in the Lay Ministry Program at Denver Seminary. Fueled by a profound commitment to spiritual exploration and academic excellence, Patricia now emerges as a graduate, ready to embark on a path of service and enlightenment. Patricia values faith, compassion, and intellectual rigor instilled by Denver Seminary. Her time in seminary has positioned Patricia to make meaningful contributions to local communities and the broader world.



Lily Zhu

Lily Zhu became a Christian in China when she was 27 years old. She completed her MA in counseling (clinical mental health) from the Denver Seminary campus in Colorado in December 2023 and moved to Maryland to serve as a mental health therapist. Her mental health education journey started during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped her traverse many rough roads resulting in her better understanding the purpose of suffering.

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