



2025 GRADUATION CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 10, 2025 1:30 pm
First Baptist Church of
Glenarden Ministry Center


DENVER SEMINARY®
Washington DC



GRADUATION CELEBRATION SERVICE

PRESIDENT MARK HUSBANDS, PhD, PRESIDING

***Processional** *Pomp and Circumstance by Sir Edward Elgar*

Invocation Debora Barr, MDiv, DC Site Director

Recognition of Denver Seminary Community Mark Husbands, PhD
President

Dr. Carla Michelle Brown, Adjunct Faculty, Black Church Programs

Iantha Brown, Adjunct Faculty, Black Church Programs

Recruiter/Black Church Programs Community Liaison

Dr. Keith Brown, Adjunct Faculty, Lay Ministry Program

Dr. John Moreland, Adjunct Faculty, Director of Black Church Programs

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

***Praise Song**..... *What a Mighty God We Serve*

***Scripture Reading** Jeremiah 17:7-8 Iantha Brown, MDiv

Address John Moreland, DMin

Recognition of Black Church Programs Students Iantha Brown, MDiv
John Moreland, DMin

Conferring of Degrees

Presentation of Graduates Don Payne, PhD

Granting of Degrees and Presentation of Diplomas Mark Husbands, PhD

***Praise Song** *To God Be The Glory*

***>Prayer for Graduates** Carla Brown, EdD

***Benediction** Don Payne, PhD

Recessional

. **Please stand.*

Postlude *> Gentlemen, please remove your caps.*

Please turn off all cell phones in the sanctuary.

Musician: Keith Brown, DPA, Adjunct Faculty, Black Church Programs

PRAISE SONGS

WHAT A MIGHTY GOD

What a Mighty God we serve

What a Mighty God we serve

Angels bow before Him

Heaven and earth adore Him

What a Mighty God we serve

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the Glory

To God be the Glory

To God be the Glory

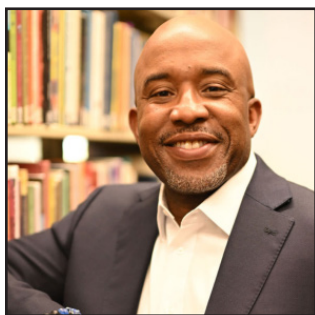
For the things He has done

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

JOHN MORELAND, DMin

ADJUNCT FACULTY

DIRECTOR OF BLACK CHURCH PROGRAMS



Dr. John Moreland was born and raised in the deep traditions of South Texas. He felt called to the lifelong service of Christian ministry at the age of 5, entered public preaching ministry at age 15, and was ordained at age 18. In 2007, Pastor Moreland was called as the Senior Pastor of Lowry Community Christian Church.

After 5 years of faithful service, he and his wife, Kenna, were led to plant Denver Christian Bible Church, where John faithfully served as the Senior Pastor for 10 years, before following the Lord's call into academic ministry.

As an Air Force veteran of 27 years, John has served as a member of Active Duty, Air Force Reserves and the Air National Guard. Major Moreland is a combat veteran, 3-time graduated Squadron Commander, and currently serves as the Deputy Commander of the 140th Mission Support Group, providing leadership to approximately 400 Airmen in the Security, Law Enforcement, Civil Engineering, Logistics and Communications career fields. Notably, John served as the Colorado Task Force Commander for Presidential Inauguration 59—the single largest mobilization of National Guard Forces in American History, to preserve the peaceful transfer of power, after the insurrection of January 6.

Dr. Moreland is the Director of Black Church Programs at Denver Seminary. He leads the Lay Ministry Certificate Program for the Littleton, Colorado and Washington DC campuses of the institution. Additionally, in his role as the Director of the Urban Track, Lilly Grant, he is the principal researcher to establish sustainable pathways in theological higher education for Black students.

John has earned degrees from Wayland Baptist University (Criminal Justice), Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Divinity) and Denver Seminary (Doctor of Ministry). Dr. Moreland also completed advanced graduate training at Georgetown University.

BLACK CHURCH PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS

Denver Seminary serves urban communities through the Black Church Programs. 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

Veronica Clark	Neiri O. Reid
Samuel Lee Gray, Sr.	Jimmia Christina Rowland
Tomiko Hankerson	Isatu Sesay
Velina Johnson	Diane V. Williams

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE

CANDIDATE

DEGREE

Danielle Abrams Lloyd	MA Christian Studies
Helen Cheston Bryant	MA Leadership
Chere J. Sanders	MA Leadership

MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE

CANDIDATE

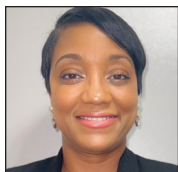
DEGREE (CONCENTRATION)

Jacob Bigley*	Chaplaincy
Caleigh McDaniel	Leadership
Abraham Wright*	

** Master's degree students with a minimum GPA of 3.7*

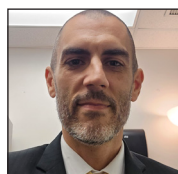
This program was accurate at the time it went to press. However, it is not intended to be an official list of graduates. Degree conferral is subject to the satisfactory completion of any remaining requirements.

STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES



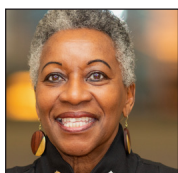
Danielle Abrams Lloyd

Danielle Abrams Lloyd is a wife, mother, and minister of the gospel. A native of Washington, DC, Danielle began singing in church at the age of 8. She developed a heart for God at an early age and gave her life to the Lord. She experienced the power of God as a child when she prayed for a dying relative of a family friend. The moment God answered Danielle's prayer is when she first understood the limitless power of God!



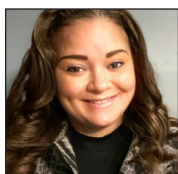
Jacob Bigley

Jacob Bigley is an ordained licensed minister at Faith City Central and has been serving under the leadership and teaching ministry of Drs. Mike and Deedee Freeman since 2013. He served in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman from May 2007 to June 2024 and was commissioned as a Navy Chaplain Candidate in July 2024. He has been married to his wife Michelle for nearly 15 years, and they have four beautiful children, Dominic, Gianni, Gabriele, and Isabelle.



Helen Cheston Bryant

Helen Cheston Bryant gives all honor to God—the love of her life. She is grateful for her mentors Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr. and First Lady Trina Jenkins, her life skills teacher Rev. Thomas Sims and her best friends, Chere Sanders and Rev. Dr. Gloria Perrin. Helen loves her wonderful husband of 54 years, Joseph Bryant, and together they have three adult children and nine grandchildren.



Veronica Clark

Veronica Clark started her Denver Seminary journey in the Lay Ministry Program in August of 2024. She credits the program for her increased biblical knowledge and new abilities to exegete Scripture and produce theological writing. Through the intentional collaboration amongst diverse students, rich discussions, lectures, and weekend intensives, she feels her awareness and knowledge of what it means to serve in ministry and in the community has been strengthened.



Samuel Lee Gray Sr.

Samuel L. Gray, Sr., a native Washingtonian, has overcome early losses to thrive in faith and leadership. Excelling in sports at Dunbar High, he built a 25-plus year career in government security. Married to his junior high sweetheart, Delcia, since 2003, they found spiritual growth at First Baptist Church of Glenarden International. Through Denver Seminary's Black Church Programs, Samuel returned to higher education. Seminary is a path he never imagined, yet he knows making it through is the affirmation of God's guidance. Samuel serves in mentoring, discipleship and enjoys sports, travel, and his family.



Tomiko Hankerson

Tomiko Hankerson is a proud Washingtonian native. Happily married for 27 years, she has been blessed with two children and six grandchildren. Tomiko is passionate about inspiring women to embrace their God-given worth. She believes in raising leaders to restore hope and bear lasting fruit. She has been a devoted member of the Daughters of Hope Prayer Ministry for over 20 years, where she serves with purpose and grace in the spirit of excellence. Her favorite inspirational Scripture is Philippians 4:13.



Velina Johnson

Velina Johnson was born in West Philadelphia, PA. She accepted Christ at 17, but did not serve the Savior until she rededicated her life in 1996. She spent the next 11 years growing in God and eventually accepting her call into the ministry. In 2008, she moved to Maryland and joined First Baptist Church of Glenarden International where she serves as an associate minister.



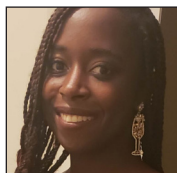
Caleigh McDaniel

Caleigh McDaniel proudly adds a Master of Divinity Degree with a concentration in leadership to more than 14 years of full-time ministry. Drawing on the knowledge and resources gained through her seminary education, Caleigh is excited to pursue her calling to plant a church. Caleigh is deeply passionate about serving others, building community, engaging with faith, and leading with vision and compassion as she embarks on this next chapter of ministry.



Neiri O. Reid

Neiri Reid was born in Jamaica, West Indies and later moved to Brooklyn, New York before settling in Bowie, Maryland. She is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden International, where she serves in multiple capacities. A devoted mother, Neiri is blessed with three adult daughters, including a set of twins and a younger daughter. She is also a proud grandmother to four wonderful grandchildren—three boys and one girl. Grateful for the path God has led her on, Neiri embraces the belief that faith should always be greater than fear.



Jimmia Christina Rowland

Jimmia is a Georgia native now living in Upper Marlboro, MD. After completing Denver Seminary's Lay Ministry Program, she plans to pursue a Master of Divinity degree. Jimmia is passionate about following God's call to multicultural ministry, specifically focusing on Hispanic outreach. Jimmia enjoys creative projects, writing, traveling, and exploring international cuisines. She finds inspiration in diverse cultures and their stories.



Chere J. Sanders

Chere Sanders uses the power of her voice to advocate for women of color, for equal pay compensation, and to fight systemic discrimination at the lowest levels. Chere is a human resources professional with certifications from Senior Professional Human Resources, Senior Certified Professional, and Certified Plan Sponsor Professional. Chere lives in Brandywine, MD with her husband who is retired military. They are members of the First Baptist Church of Glenarden International, where Chere serves as a member of the Helps Ministry.



Isatu Sesay

Isatu Sesay has spent two decades serving the Lord through her work with various levels of hospice care. She enjoys serving in the Church and searches for opportunities to evangelize to those in the United States and abroad. When she is not working, Isatu enjoys cooking and laughing with her family. Her family says she does both very well!

**Diane V. Williams**

Diane V. Williams is a member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden International and serves as Associate Minister in the Gospel Ministry under the leadership of Pastor John K. Jenkins Sr. Born in Washington, DC, she is the third eldest of five siblings, mother of two adult sons, grandmother of nine and great-grandmother of seven. Diane is passionate about sharing the Gospel. She loves music, reading, and writing, and is truly captivated by the Word of God.

**Abraham Wright**

Abraham Wright, a former English teacher, proudly serves on the leadership staff of Park Road Community Church, Washington, DC. Abraham has also served for two terms as President of the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC) and currently serves as Secretary of the ICCC Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

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