



Convocation Ceremony

**McMaster Divinity College**

May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.



McMaster Divinity  
College

McMaster Divinity College's

*Sixty-eighth*  
*Convocation*

Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

L. R. Wilson Concert Hall

# PRINCIPALS, PRESIDENTS, & DEANS

## CANADA BAPTIST COLLEGE

1838–1843..... Benjamin Davies  
1843..... Robert Alexander Fyfe  
1844–1849 ..... John M. Cramp

## CANADIAN LITERARY INSTITUTE

1860–1878..... Robert Alexander Fyfe  
1878–1881 ..... John Torrance

## TORONTO BAPTIST COLLEGE

1881–1889 ..... John H. Castle

## FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AT McMASTER UNIVERSITY

1889 ..... Daniel A. McGregor  
1890–1892 ..... Calvin A. Goodspeed  
1892–1895..... Theodore H. Rand  
1895–1903..... Oates C. S. Wallace  
1903–1928..... John H. Farmer  
1928–1931 ..... Howard P. Whidden  
1931–1937..... John MacNeill  
1939–1952 ..... Harold S. Stewart  
1952–1957 ..... Nathaniel H. Parker

## McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE

1957–1966..... Nathaniel H. Parker  
1966–1978..... Ivan C. Morgan  
1978–1989..... Melvyn R. Hillmer  
1989–2000..... William H. Brackney  
2001–Present..... Stanley E. Porter



## MESSAGE FROM STANLEY E. PORTER



I wish to congratulate all of McMaster Divinity College's graduands on reaching this important day. Our prayer for you as you came to McMaster Divinity College was that you would reach this day knowing the Word of God, being transformed into Christ's image, and prepared for doing the work of ministry. We hope that you have experienced the fruit of this prayer. We now pray that you will leave this seminary and graduate school better equipped to take your place as a Christian leader. Some of you are heading towards vocational ministry, others into teaching ministry, and still others into various kinds of valuable Christian service. Whatever God has in store for you, we trust that your time here has been one of deep spiritual, personal, and academic development, so as to become the person whom God will continue to use in His work in the world.

Although this occasion marks the completion of much work, effort, and sacrifice, it also marks the beginning of so much more. As you pursue your Christian vocation, we wish God's greatest blessings on you and your endeavours. In all that you do, whether the times are hard or easy, trying or trouble-free, we trust that they will be rewarding as you answer a genuine call to follow the Lord Jesus Christ and work to His glory. We want you to know that our continued prayers, concern, and interest will go with you. We would love to hear from you again regarding how God is working in your life and using you for His purposes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stanley E. Porter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Stanley E. Porter, PhD*  
*President and Dean, McMaster Divinity College*

## McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE

McMaster Divinity College is heir to an educational tradition that reaches back to 1838. In 1881, William McMaster, a wealthy merchant, banker, and Senator of the Dominion of Canada, urged the creation of a theological school in Toronto, eventually helping to found Toronto Baptist College through his generous financial support. In 1887, this institution, which had provincial degree granting powers, joined with Woodstock College to become McMaster University. After relocating from Toronto to the current campus in west Hamilton in 1930, the University separated from the Divinity College in 1957. McMaster University was reorganized, transferring governance of the institution from the Baptist Convention of Ontario and Quebec to a privately chartered, publicly funded arrangement. McMaster Divinity College, as a separately and independently chartered college, continues the legacy of Toronto Baptist College and Senator McMaster to this day. With its own Senate and Board of Trustees, MDC is freestanding and responsible for its own governance and finances. McMaster Divinity College currently offers the Master of Arts in Theology and Ministry, Master of Arts in Counselling and Spiritual Care, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Practical Theology, Master of Arts (Christian Studies), and Doctor of Philosophy (Christian Theology) degrees, as well as Graduate Certificates in Church and Culture, Spiritual Care, Spiritual Formation, Pastoral Ministry, Preaching, Worship Studies, Church Leadership, Church Thought and History, Biblical Languages, Biblical Studies, Theology, and Christian Studies.

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

## Musical Prelude

*Dr Wendy J. Porter, Professor of Music and Worship, McMaster Divinity College*

## The Graduand Procession, The Academic Procession, The President's Procession\*

*The audience will rise as the Processions enter L. R. Wilson Concert Hall*

## National Anthem\*

*Led by McMaster Divinity College Ensemble*

## Welcome and Opening of Convocation Ceremony

*Dr Stanley E. Porter, President and Dean, McMaster Divinity College*

## Opening Prayer

*Dr Kelvin F. Mutter, Associate Professor of Counselling and Spiritual Care, McMaster Divinity College*

## Responsive Scripture Reading—Psalm 111\*

*Led by Dr Wendy J. Porter*

## Come, Thou Fount\*

*Led by McMaster Divinity College Ensemble*

## Recognition of Dr Kelvin F. Mutter as Associate Professor Emeritus of Counselling and Spiritual Care

*Dr James D. Dvorak, Vice President Academic, McMaster Divinity College*

## Presentation of the MDC Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to Dr James R. Payton Jr.

*Dr Gordon L. Heath, Professor of Christian History, McMaster Divinity College*

## Presentation of the MDC Award for Distinguished Faculty Service to Dr James D. Dvorak

*Dr Paul S. Evans, Professor of Old Testament, McMaster Divinity College*

## The Conferring of the Degree Doctor of Divinity *honoris causa* on

Margaret Helen Derrah

by Authority of the McMaster Divinity College Senate

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

and

*Mr David Huctwith, Chair, Board of Trustees, McMaster Divinity College*

## The Convocation Address

*Dr Margaret Helen Derrah*

## Goodness of God

*Led by McMaster Divinity College Ensemble*

## The Conferral of Professional Certificates and Degrees

by Authority of the McMaster Divinity College Senate

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

and

*Dr James D. Dvorak*

*\*Please stand during these occasions of the ceremony*

## **ORDER OF EXERCISES (CONTINUED...)**

Graduate Reflection

*Jonathan Mark Germain, MDiv*

The Conferral of Research Degrees  
by Authority of the McMaster Divinity College Senate

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

*and*

*Dr James D. Dvorak*

Graduate Reflection

*Jihyung Kim, PhD*

Way Maker\*

*Led by McMaster Divinity College Ensemble*

The Trustee Address

*Mr David Huctwith*

Presentation of the President's Gold Medal Awards for Academic Excellence

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

The President's Address

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

Commissioning of Graduates & Prayer of Commissioning

*Dr J. Gregory Davidson, Assistant Professor of Old Testament, McMaster Divinity College*

Be Thou, My Vision and Doxology\*

*Led by McMaster Divinity College Ensemble*

Dismissal of Convocation Ceremony\*

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

Recessional\*

*\*Please stand during these occasions of the ceremony*

*Immediately following the ceremony, a reception, to which all are invited, will be held in Cullen Hall at McMaster Divinity College.*

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### **McMaster Divinity College Ensemble**

Dr Wendy J. Porter, Professor of Music and Worship, McMaster Divinity College, *Vocals and Piano*

Ashley St Pierre, MDiv and CertCS graduand, McMaster Divinity College, *Vocals*

Doyin Oyenuga, MA in Theology and Ministry student, McMaster Divinity College, *Vocals*

Krystle Marriott, MA in Theology and Ministry graduate and PhD student, McMaster Divinity College, *Vocals*

Isaac Gama, MA in Counselling and Spiritual Care graduand, McMaster Divinity College, *Cajon*

John Steadman, Director of External Relations and Director of Operations, McMaster Divinity College, *Bass*

Corey Parish, PhD student, McMaster Divinity College, *Guitar and Vocals*

# THE CONFERRAL OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES BY AUTHORITY OF THE McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE SENATE

*Dr Stanley E. Porter*

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Oluremi Akintokun	<i>BSc (Hons) (Lagos), BA (Waterloo)</i>
Daniel Rozelouis Cruz	<i>BA (Far Eastern)</i>
Linda Elizabeth Dillon	<i>BScN (Toronto Metropolitan)</i>
Wendy Lee Ann Matthews	<i>OCD (Mohawk)</i>
Sinéad Patricia O'Sullivan Dufour	<i>BKin (Hons) (McMaster), MSc (McMaster), PhD (Western)</i>
Daniel James Osman	<i>MTS (McMaster)</i>
Adianes Ponce Villalonga	<i>BTh (SET), MA (IBTS)</i>
Katrina Marie Rae	<i>BRE (Heritage)</i>
Rebecca Thankam Roy	<i>BHSc (Hons) (McMaster)</i>
Ashley Rebecca St Pierre	<i>OCAD (Mohawk), BA (Hons) (Toronto)</i>

## MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELLING & SPIRITUAL CARE

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Justin Barry Joseph Bertrand	<i>BTT (St Philip's), STB/MDiv (Toronto)</i>
Isaac Kodji Gama	<i>BA (KNUST), MBA (KNUST)</i>
Kasey Kamisaki Xavier	<i>BA (Hons) (Redeemer)</i>
Anthony Melchizedeck	<i>BA (Valley View), MA (KAIPTC)</i>
Edward R. O'Meara	<i>CertCS (McMaster Divinity)</i>
Nicole Patricia Smith	<i>BMus (Hons) (Laurier)</i>

THE CONFERRAL OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES (CONTINUED...)

**MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY & MINISTRY**

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Jeongsik Choi	<i>BA (Hons) (Redcliffe)</i>
Connor James Clark	<i>BA (Gutenberg)</i>
Yujin Gong	<i>BEng (Beihang)</i>
Jerid Michael Dyck Klassen	<i>BRE (Heritage)</i>
Arthur Egbert Chu Ming Lau	<i>BBA (CUHK), MBA (Western)</i>
Jonathan Mason	<i>BRE (Hons) (Heritage)</i>
Tricia D. Morgan	<i>Cert (Humber)</i>
Jessica Richmond	<i>BSc (Hons) (Western), MACP (Yorkville)</i>
Daniel Weigert	<i>BA (Summit Pacific)</i>
Quan Zhang	<i>BEng (CUST), MA (HUJI)</i>

**MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Xin Luo	<i>BEng (Central South), MA (HUJI)</i>
Shalom Muuo Mbindyo	<i>BAIR (Pioneer International)</i>
Robert James Tughan	<i>BTh (OBC), BFA (Hons) (Waterloo)</i>

**MASTER OF DIVINITY**

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Simon Shek-Ming Chan	<i>BSc (Calgary)</i>
Joshua Alexander Dillliott	<i>BA (Redeemer)</i>
Jonathan Mark Germain	<i>BA (Redeemer)</i> Thesis: Beauty as a Way Back to the Transcendent: Comparing the Theological Aesthetics of Edwards and Balthasar
Dana Lea Harumi Kimoto	<i>BA (Victoria), BA (Victoria)</i>
Elaine Rose Michalicka	<i>BA (Hons) (McMaster)</i>
Anthony Ramuscak	<i>OCD (Mohawk), BA (Redeemer)</i>
Ashley Rebecca St Pierre	<i>OCAD (Mohawk), BA (Hons) (Toronto)</i> Thesis: Images in the New Testament:An Interdisciplinary Iconology for Biblical Interpretation
Kyle Tabet	<i>BA (McMaster)</i>
Sandra Marie Werkman	<i>BA (Hons) (Laurier)</i>

## DOCTOR OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Bonnie-Ann Lorraine Baisi

*BEd (Calgary), MA (Gonzaga), MA (Gonzaga)*

Dissertation: Finding a Power Greater than Ourselves:  
Reflections on the Role of Spiritual Practices  
in the Recovery Stories of Alcoholics

Lori Anne Sheridan Giacchetta

*BSc (Lethbridge), MA (Gonzaga)*

Dissertation: Spiritual Formation in Secular Spaces: A  
Dialogue of Spiritual Journeys in Hospital  
Chaplaincy

Benjamin Chan Chung

*BRE (Northwest), MDiv (Briercrest)*

Dissertation: Spiritual Formation through Corporate  
Worship in Indigenous Churches in Canada:  
From Indigenous Perspectives to Biblical  
Spirituality

Shawn Christopher Lazar

*BTh (McGill), MA (Amsterdam)*

Dissertation: Comforted by the Cross: A Practical  
Theology of Funeral Preaching

Robert Charles Cripps

*BA (Briercrest), MTS (McMaster)*

Dissertation: The Conflicted Church: Equipping Church  
Leaders to Identify and Address Relational  
Conflict in Congregations through  
Conciliation

Robert James Tughan

*BTh (OBC), BFA (Hons) (Waterloo)*

Dissertation: Developing a Practical Theology for Priestly  
Roles in Christian Artistry within  
Congregational Ministry

## MASTER OF ARTS (CHRISTIAN STUDIES)

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

Solomon Getachew Ayechelem

*BA (Global), MDiv (Africa International)*

Isaac A. Tolu Boluwatise

*BTh (LIFE Theological)*

Thesis: Ecclesial Unity and Implications for  
Societal Transformation and Harmony in  
Nigeria

Chanyoung Choi

*BA (Handong Global), MDiv (Korea Theological),  
ThM (Korea Theological)*

Thesis: Moralism and Divine Agency in Korean  
Protestant Preaching: A Heidelberg  
Sermon Analysis of Sermons on the  
Prodigal Son

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY)**

*Presented by Dr James D. Dvorak*

**Jesse Daniel Hill**

*BA (Regent), MEd (Regent), MTS (McMaster)*

Dissertation: Phenomenology of Low Liturgy: A  
Liturgical Theology of Informal Worship  
Practices

**Tamara L. Simmonds**

*BA (Toronto), BEd (Western), MTS (McMaster)*

Dissertation: A Deep Reading of Narrative: Towards  
a Practical Theology of Hope

**Jihyung Kim**

*BLIS (Sungkyunkwan), MDiv (Chongshin), MA  
(Gordon-Conwell)*

Dissertation: No Wilderness, No Hebrews: Wilderness  
Memory as the Hermeneutical Framework of  
the Sermon

**Angel Moises Zumaeta**

*BMin (STB Lima), MA (Clarks Summit), MDiv (Clarks  
Summit)*

Dissertation: What Is a 'Ιουδαίος? A Linguistic Investigation  
of 'Ιουδαίος's Meaning and John's Motivation  
behind his Peculiar Modulation

**Nathan Jeremiah Nadeau**

*BHSc (UOIT), MTS (Toronto Baptist)*

Dissertation: The Puzzle of Paul in Acts: A New  
Historiographical Interpretation

## HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

*Conferred by Authority of the McMaster Divinity College Senate*



Margaret Helen Derrah was born in England and immigrated to Canada at the age of two. Rooted in a rich Christian heritage, she made a personal commitment to Christ at the age of six and has lived out her faith through a lifetime of service.

She earned a Bachelor of Science from McMaster University (1969), followed by an MBA from Laurentian University (1991), a Master of Accounting from the University of Waterloo (1996), and her CPA, CA designation (1999). Margaret's career spanned roles in research, programming, systems analysis, education, and private accounting practice.

For over four decades, she has served faithfully in church leadership across Baptist and Pentecostal communities, holding roles such as treasurer, deacon, teacher, and board member. She also contributed significantly at the denominational level, including leadership roles within Canadian Baptist Ministries.

Margaret's commitment to McMaster Divinity College included service on the Board, Resources Committee, and Senate, along with key involvement in fundraising and governance. She retired from her roles in 2022, leaving a legacy of dedicated leadership, stewardship, and faith.

# ACADEMIC AWARDS

**Olusola Adeyinka**

*The John Billes Scholarship*

**Scott Barth**

*The John Billes Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Alexandre Christiansen**

*The J. C. Adams Prize*

*The Helen Winnifred Lang Scholarship*

**Abbie Desloges**

*The W. Lloyd Pierce Bursary in Mission and Evangelism*

**Aaron Dyck**

*The John MacNeill Scholarship*

**Renarthia Erskine**

*The Lois Tupper Scholarship*

**Mohsen Ghasemy**

*The John Billes Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Rachael Giesbrecht**

*The St George Baptist Church Legacy Scholarship*

**Laura Gobbels**

*The Muriel Israel Award*

**Matthew Hudson**

*The Catherine Thomson MacAlpine Memorial  
Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Bennett Leduke**

*The Irene H. McDormand Prize*

**Chankoo Lee**

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Kiyong Lee**

*The Irene H. McDormand Prize*

**Woonghee Lee**

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Yanyin Lo**

*The Harold Lang Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Jocelyn McCallum**

*The John Gordon Jones Prize*

*Cornerstone Academic Achievement Award in  
Counselling and Spiritual Care*

**Seán McGuire**

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

*The St George Baptist Church Legacy Scholarship*

**Alexis McKay**

*The John Billes Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

*The St George Baptist Church Legacy Scholarship*

**Christopher Miller**

*The St George Baptist Church Legacy Scholarship*

**Johannes Oberholzer**

*The St George Baptist Church Legacy Scholarship*

**Corey Parish**

*The Catherine Thomson MacAlpine Memorial Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Jeyoon Park**

*The Harold Lang Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Stephen Paulgnanam**

*The Harry Pike Memorial Prize*

**Olivia Phillips**

*The Salmon and Esther Vining Memorial Prize*

**Jiafu Qie**

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Hayden Regeling**

*The Silas H. Lamb Bursary*

**Paul Robinson**

*The Catherine Thomson MacAlpine Memorial Scholarship*

*The Marshall Family Bursary*

**Jenna Swirski**

*The Duncan R. MacNab Scholarship*

**Robert Turner**

*The Hoyes Lloyd Memorial Prize*

**David Varghese**

*Cornerstone Academic Achievement Award in  
Counselling and Spiritual Care*

We are pleased to present the inaugural **Cornerstone Academic Achievement Award in Counselling and Spiritual Care** and gratefully acknowledge the donors who made it possible. This endowed award recognizes students who demonstrate academic excellence and a calling to ministry in Christian psychotherapy, spiritual care, or counselling.

# OFFICERS OF CONVOCATION, McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE

## **PRESIDENT AND DEAN, McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE**

Stanley E. Porter, *BA, MA, MA, PhD*

## **CHAIR, McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

David Huctwith, *LLB, MDiv*

## **VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC, McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE**

James D. Dvorak, *BA, MDiv, MA, PhD*

## **REGISTRAR, McMASTER DIVINITY COLLEGE**

Ambrose P. Thomson, *BTh, MTS, PhD*

# IN CHRIST ALL THINGS CONSIST

Colossians 1:17



## McMaster Divinity College



Knowing



Being



Doing

[mcmasterdivinity.ca](http://mcmasterdivinity.ca)