



**THE NINETY-FIFTH/
NINETY-SIXTH
ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT**

**PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF EASTERN UNIVERSITY**

**THURSDAY, THE THIRTEENTH OF MAY,
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE
FIVE-THIRTY IN THE EVENING**

PROGRAM

David Bronkema, Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary, presiding

PRELUDE	Franklin Brass Quintet <i>Ed Jakuboski, trumpet Anthony DeSantis, trumpet Todd Williams, horn Justin Moore, trombone Brian Brown, tuba</i>
WELCOME/OPENING PRAYER	David Bronkema <i>Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary</i>
* OPENING HYMN.....	Phaedra D. Blocker <i>Affiliate Faculty of Leadership and Formation</i> Peter Wool <i>Affiliate Faculty in Christian Ministry Seminary Organist</i>
<p>“Crown Him with Many Crowns” <i>arranged by Steven Ford</i></p>	
CALL TO WORSHIP	Phaedra D. Blocker <i>Affiliate Faculty of Leadership and Formation</i>
SCRIPTURE READING:	
Romans 8: 31-39	Melinda Pearl Crabbe <i>M.Div., Class of 2020 First Place: Harriet B. Paulin Scripture Prize, English</i>
Isaiah 6: 1-8	Jessica Green <i>M.Div., Class of 2021 First Place: Harriet B. Paulin Scripture Prize, English</i>
Proverbs 8: 1-11	Leonardo Díaz García <i>M.T.S.-Latino/a Ministries Class of 2021 First Place: Harriet B. Paulin Scripture Prize, Spanish</i>
INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	David Bronkema <i>Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Valerie Bridgeman <i>Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Methodist Theological School of Ohio</i>

* All those who are able please stand.

PROGRAM

- * CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES Phaedra D. Blocker
*Affiliate Faculty of
Leadership and Formation*

“Take Time To Be Holy”

*Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His word.
Make friends of God’s children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.*

*Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be,
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.*
CCLI#2013197

- * GRADUATES’ RESPONSE TO THE CALL Class of 2020 & 2021
Representatives

“Here I Am Lord” by Dan Schultte & John Weissrock

*I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?*

CHORUS:

*Here I am, Lord, It is I, Lord.
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

*I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain,
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts of love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?*

CHORUS

*I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life for them. Whom shall I send?*

CHORUS
CCLI#2013197

* All those who are able please stand.

PROGRAM

† THE AWARDING OF CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS	Ronald A. Matthews <i>President of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary</i> David Bronkema <i>Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary</i> Sarah Roche <i>Registrar</i> Cheryl Simmons Hargrave <i>Program Director of Eastern's School of Christian Ministry</i>
† THE CONFERRING OF DEGREES.	Ronald A. Matthews <i>President of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary</i> David Bronkema <i>Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary</i> Sarah Roche <i>Registrar</i> Donald J. Brash <i>Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program</i>
THE CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE	Alyn E. Waller <i>Eastern University Board Trustee</i> Kenton Sparks <i>Provost of Eastern University</i> Ronald A. Matthews <i>President of Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary</i>
WELCOME FROM ALUMNI/AE	Phaedra Blocker <i>Affiliate Faculty of Leadership and Formation M.Div., Class of 2003</i>
SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	David Bronkema <i>Dean of Palmer Theological Seminary</i>

† Family and friends of the graduate are invited to stand when the graduate's name is read.

PROGRAM

CLOSING HYMN: Phaedra D. Blocker
*Affiliate Faculty of
Leadership and Formation*
Peter Wool
*Affiliate Faculty in
Christian Ministry
Seminary Organist*

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” by *Thomas Chisholm*

* PRAYER AND BENEDICTION Valerie Bridgeman
*Dean and Vice President for
Academic Affairs
Methodist Theological School
of Ohio*

POSTLUDE Franklin Brass Quintet
*Ed Jakuboski, trumpet
Anthony DeSantis, trumpet
Todd Williams, horn
Justin Moore, trombone
Brian Brown, tuba*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Palmer Theological Seminary extends a huge thank you to Meggin Capers and her team from Conferences and Special Events of Eastern University for working tirelessly behind the scenes to make this outdoor ceremony possible. Meggin, we cannot say enough about the way you have shared in our joy and excitement, and delighted in prayerfully and so creatively drawing up this on-campus commencement, and for the amount of work that was done to make it such a wonderful testimony of celebration of our graduates and worship of our Lord. All of us at Palmer Theological Seminary extend our heartfelt thanks to you and your team.
2. The Alumni Care Initiative would like to congratulate the 2020/21 class and welcome you as our newest alumni/ae! You did it! Well done! Alumni Care Chaplains will be contacting you soon to tell you about the resources and opportunities that are available to you. In the meantime, look around the room - these are your new old friends! The relationships formed in seminary are special—set apart. These individual and communal relationships can be an enduring wellspring as seminarians become alumni serving, often isolated, in their call. The Alumni Care Chaplains desire to meet alumni where they are, to companion them in their various stages of life and ministry, and to connect them with their seminary community as a sacred source of continued sharpening and encouragement. For more information, please go to PalmerSeminary.edu or write us at PTSAumniCare@Eastern.edu
3. A special welcome to our newest Golden Alumni, the Classes of 1970/71, as you celebrate 50+ years as graduates of the Seminary.

* All those who are able please stand.

2020 AND 2021 PRIZES AND AWARDS

1. Harriet B. Paullin Scripture Reading Prize

Established by the late Dr. Norman W. Paullin in memory of his mother and awarded to Seniors who demonstrate unusual ability in the public reading of the Scriptures:

First Prize English 2020:

Melinda Pearl Crabbe

First Prize English 2021:

Jessica Greene

First Prize Spanish 2020:

Dalia Juarez

First Prize Spanish 2021:

Leonardo Díaz García

First Prize Korean 2020:

Eunil Park

2. Wilbur T. Elmore Prize in Church History

Established in memory of Dr. W. T. Elmore, Professor of Church History, Eastern Baptist Seminary, 1925-1935. Awarded for best papers in Church History.

2020: *Jovan Moore*

2021: *David Richter*

3. Clifford C. Meeden Memorial — Church History

This memorial fund was established by Mrs. Vivian L. Meeden and friends in loving memory of Dr. Clifford C. Meeden, a graduate of the Seminary and for many years a member of the Board of Directors. The annual award is given to students who excel in the area of Church History.

2020: *Kevin Pope*

2021: *Malva Carey*

4. Borchert Prize in Christian Education

Awarded for excellence in Christian Education.

2020: *John Spatig*

2021: *TBA*

5. The Lillian D. Poling Prize

Established in memory of Mrs. Lillian D. Poling by the Crusader Class of Baptist Temple, Blue Bell, & awarded to the Middler student with the highest grade average.

2020: *Eric Burrows-Stone*

2021: *TBA*

6. The Herbert Stilwell Prize in Evangelism

Awarded to a student for outstanding Evangelism and a committed contribution to the furthering of the gospel message through some form of ministry: evangelism, overseas mission or local community service.

2020: *Lakeisha December Pike*

2021: *TBA*

7. The Ella S. Twomey Prize

Established by the "M.G." Club of the Baptist Temple, Philadelphia, in honor of Mrs. Ella Twomey and awarded to the student showing the greatest proficiency in Missions.

2020: *Valtencir Barbosa*

2021: *TBA*

8. The Many Others Award

Based on the Scriptures from Luke 8:3 and Acts 15:35. This award is given to a graduating student of color who has experienced wonderful radical transformation during their seminary journey, like the caterpillar who becomes a butterfly, has persevered and endured challenges in life beyond the seminary, and yet has maintained their status as a student and finished their studies.

2020: *Thomas Singleton*

2021: *TBA*

8. United Methodist Church Worship Award

The Hoyt L. Hickman award is given to a student of any denomination who has shown outstanding skill in worship and liturgical studies. It is sponsored by the Order of St. Luke, a dispersed ecumenical order composed of laity and clergy focused on sacramental and liturgical scholarship, education and practice.

2020: *Jovan Moore*

2021: *Karen Bartkowski*

THE GRADUATES OF 2020

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
in Leadership of Missional Church Renewal

BARNABUS DEXTER SEWELL
*Transforming the Disposition of the Rural Baptist Diaconate
through Continued Education*

BINU THOMAS
*The Value of a Cross-Cultural Curriculum in Facilitating Relationships
in a Multi-Ethnic Congregation*

MATTHEW BLAINE ASH
*Cultivating Leadership and Assisting Discernment of a Calling among
Undergraduate College Students in the West Virginia Baptist Convention*

MASTER OF DIVINITY

BRYAN LEE BELL	JOVAN ALEXANDRIA MOORE
MICHAEL A. COLES	LA'KEISHA DECEMBER PIKE
JACQUELINE HILLS	KEVIN R. POPE
GILDA FABRE JEAN-LOUIS	JAMES ALLEN SAUNDERS
SOLOMON LEE JEFFERSON	JOHN CLAUSEN SPENCER SPATIG, JR.

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

MELINDA PEARL CRABBE	MARIA I. REYES
JONATHAN ALLEN HOBBS	VICTORIA LYND TAYLOR
JOHN ALLEN NEWMAN	

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES – OPENSEMINARY

KIMBERLY ANN BROWN	KRISTINE PATRICIA OUWENGA
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THE GRADUATES OF 2020

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES – LATINO/A MINISTRIES

VALTENCIR BARBOSA

WILFREDO BENAVIDE

GUMERCINDO BENAVIDEZ

DIEGO BENÍTEZ

OZEIAS BRITO

SAMUEL CALLAPA

MARCOS CORONA

ESTEBAN CRUZ

IRON DA SILVA

HEVERTON DE FARIA MESQUITA

RONAN DE MENDONÇA

ROGERIO DOS SANTOS

VILMA GOMES

OSCAR GONZÁLEZ

VICTORIO ITURRALDE

DALIA JUÁREZ

JOSÉ MARRERO

VICTOR MENDOZA

ABRAHAM MONTALVO

MIGUEL MORALES

LUZ PARRA

ANA PASCARELLA

MAURA QUINTANILLA

SANTOS RÍOS

JOHNATTAN SOLTERO

FEBE ZÚÑIGA

CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL STUDIES

BONGKYUNG CHO

ALEXANDER GOLOVANOV

AERI JEON

ANDRII KHLOPAN

DUKHEE KIM

KYUNG DONG KIM

HASAN SEMIH KUMAS

MIHYEON KWON

EUN IL PARK

THE GRADUATES OF 2021

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
in Leadership of Missional Church Renewal

DAVID H. YU
*Creating a New Model of Pastoral Leadership in the
Korean Baptist Churches of the Republic of Korea*

KRISTOPHER D. SCHONDELMAYER
*Compassionate Conversations: A compassion-based framework for
moderating civil discourse in the intersection of religion and
public policy in the Presbyterian Church (USA)*

MAGED KARAM SOLIMAN
*The Kolali Evangelical Church Community Ministry Initiative:
A transformational model of a small church impacting its
community after the 2011 Arab Spring*

MASTER OF DIVINITY

KAREN E. BARTKOWSKI	KEITH HARGROVE
CAROLYN M. HART BLACKSON	MARKI JOY HARVIN
SHANE R. BOGGS	FLOYD B. JACKSON, JR.
ERIC R. L. BURROWS-STONE	ALEXANDER JAMES, JR
MALVA JOAN CAREY	PATIENCE KOROMA
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JESSICA GREENE	BRIAN SHIRAK
BRENT ROY HANNAH	THOMAS ANTHONY SINGLETON

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

WILLIAM EARL ALSTON	SI MON
MARILYNN RENEE BLACKSON	CHENOA R. TAYLOR
KATHRYN ELIZABETH MEANS-ASKEW	CHARIS MARIE ANDIONNE M. TRINIDAD
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MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES – OPENSEMINARY

VICKI M. CURRIE	CORY L. PATTERSON
FAITH NOWELL	

THE GRADUATES OF 2021

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES – LATINO/A MINISTRIES

MARTHA AGUILAR
DANIA BENÍTEZ
MARIO BERRELLEZA
JORGE CARDOZA
MARÍA CARREÑO
JEPHTHE CELESTIN
CARMELA DELGADO
LEONARDO DÍAZ
CLAUDIA DOMÍNGUEZ
LEONIDAS DONAIS
JAIME DUARTE
*YVELISSE ELVAS
*PIERRE ESPADY
DANIEL E. FIGUEROA
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HERMINIO GARCÍA
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PAULO MARCONDES
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ESTELA SIFREN
KARLA SORIANO
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GABRIEL SUÁREZ
*ROBERSON TOUSSAINT
SILVIA TURCIOS
PABLO ANTONIO VILLARROEL
PABLO FERNANDO VILLARROEL
*SAURY ZAPATA

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GINA MARCELA ESTRADA
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Over the years and through today, individuals and churches have made financial contributions to the Seminary in honor of the persons, churches, and causes listed below. This support enables the Seminary to make theological education as accessible as possible to persons preparing for ministry.

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

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President's Scholarship
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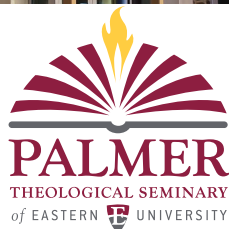
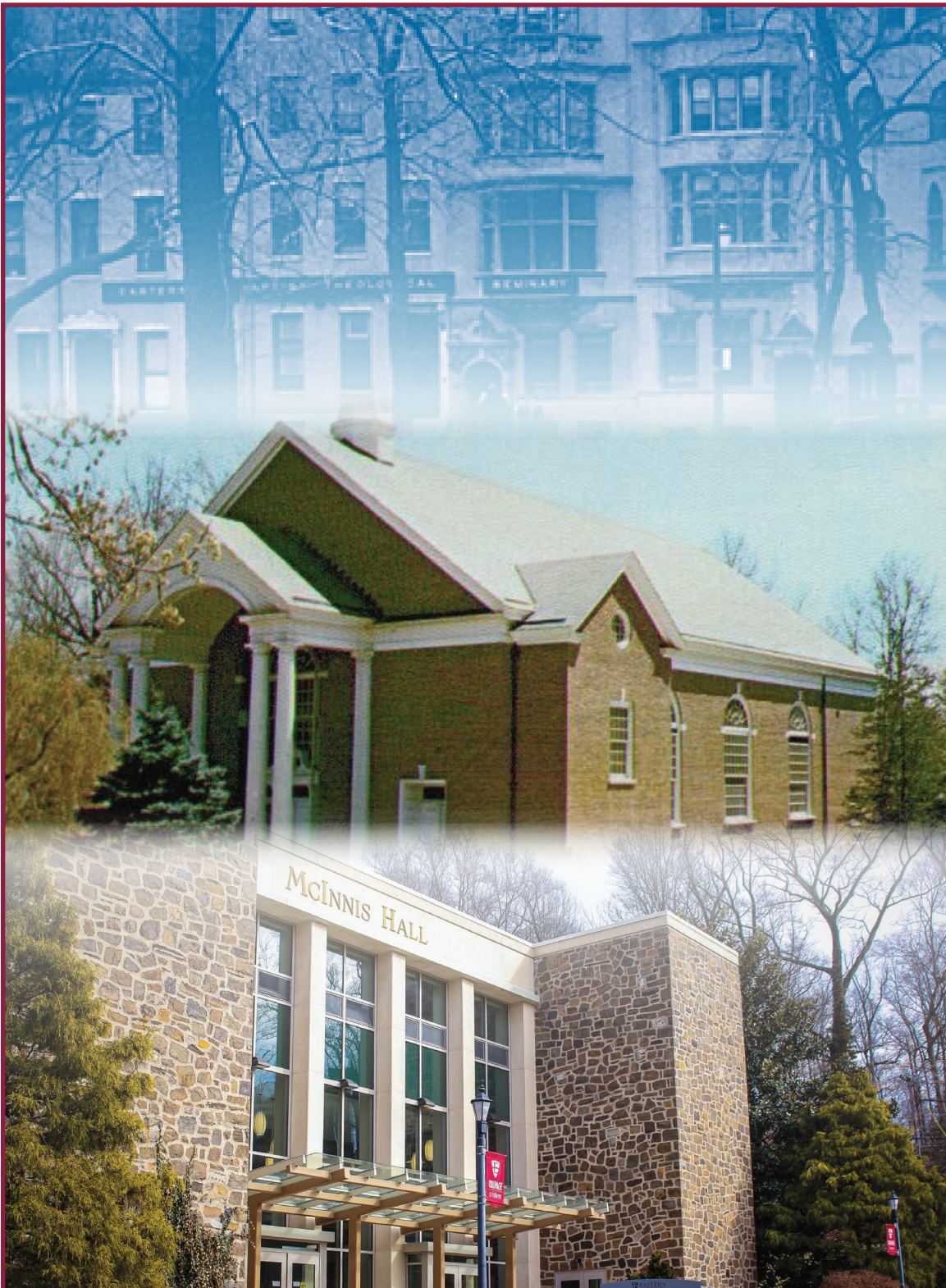
COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman currently serves as the Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible, at the Methodist School of Ohio. Called to preach at an early age, and encouraged by a deacon in her rural Baptist church in Odena, Alabama (Pine Grove Baptist Church), by her dual participation in the Church of God in Indiana, and the exposure to women preachers in the district meetings of the latter, she surrendered to that call just after she graduated from high school. Rev. Bridgeman began her ministerial work in 1977 when she served first as a lay and then as a licensed and associate minister in congregations of the Church of God in Alabama and Texas. In 1987 she was called to serve as the Executive Pastor in the Banah Full Community Church in Austin, Texas, and also then as a hospital and hospice chaplain, as an interim pastor in Memphis, as an associate minister and occasional preacher in St. Paul Baptist Church in Philadelphia, and for the last eight years as a preacher in residence in Emory Fellowship (United Methodist Church) in Washington D.C.

Dr. Bridgeman holds a Master of Divinity with a Concentration in Biblical Studies from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and a PhD in Biblical Studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible and a minor in Ethics from Baylor University. She began her higher education teaching and administration career as Assistant Professor of Religion at the now Huston Tillotson University in 1994; joined the faculty at Memphis Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible/Homiletics, and Liturgics in 2003; assumed the tenured position of Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible/Homiletics & Worship and Scholar in Theology and the Arts at Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2009; and became the Associate Professor of Homiletics & Hebrew Bible at Methodist Theological School in Ohio in 2016, leading her then to be chosen to also fill the position of Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs in that school.

Rev. Dr. Bridgeman is the author or editor of six books and has written more than thirty book chapters, articles, commentaries, and anthologies focusing on Hebrew Bible, worship, preaching, poems, and art. Among these she has served as co-editor of *Those Preaching Women: A Multi-Cultural Collection* (Judson Press, 2008), and as associate editor and contributor to *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora* (Fortress Press, 2009). Dr. Bridgeman has also served as the chair of the African American Biblical Hermeneutics Section of the Society of Biblical Literature and as a member of the steering committee of both the Women in the Biblical World section of the Society of Biblical Literature and of the Bible in Racial, Ethnic and Indigenous Communities section of the American Academy of Religion. She is currently serving or has served on 13 different journal, monograph series, conference, association, and society boards and councils, and has been inducted into the Society for the Study of Black Religion.

Rev. Dr. Bridgeman is also the Founding President & CEO of WomanPreach! Inc., which is training preachers and public speakers who often emerge from churches, academic institutions, and other spaces that are inhospitable to their vocation and their voice to find focus, voice, process, and courage; and to produce a network of preaching women and men who will use their voice in service to the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially as it relates to Womanist/Feminist concerns of equity and justice. Dr. Bridgeman is also a peace activist and advocate for human rights, and was inducted into the 2010 class of Martin Luther King, Jr. Collegium of Scholars and Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA.



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