Commencement Ceremony

Rockbridge Seminary



Graduation Program

**July 18, 2023**



Commencement Ceremony

Rockbridge Seminary

July 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m. Central

# Prelude

# Academic Procession

### Pomp and Circumstance

**Welcome** **and Introductions**

## Rev. Tommy Hilliker

## Seminary President

# Invocation

## Mr. Kevin Compton

## Chairman, Board of Trustees

# Reading from Scripture

## Dr. Steve Custer

## Seminary Faculty

#### Philippians 1:3-9 (NLT)

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight…*

# Carole Eldridge Leadership Award

## Zeal Beale

## Presented by Mrs. Linda Graber

## Director of Alumni Relations

**Simpson-Proux Ministry Service Award**

Amy Breza

Marc Bartholomew

Presented by Dr. Mark Simpson,

Vice President for Academic Services

# Worship in Music

## Carla Hairston

#### Goodness of God

#### One Thing Remains

# Commencement Address

## Rev. Chip Ingram

## Pastor and Author

# Conferring of Degrees

## Rev. Tommy Hilliker, Seminary President

## Dr. Mark Simpson, Vice President for Academic Services

# Blessing of Graduates

## Rev. Mark Carver

## Board of Trustees

# Graduate Recessional

### Courante

Graduating Class of 2023

##### Diploma in Ministry Studies

The D.M.S. is a two-year undergraduate diploma designed for men and women who are serving on a church staff or in other ministry positions.

**Marc Joseph Bartholomew**

Charlotte Hall, MD

**Kael Jordan Bloom**

Hays, KS

**Charlie Vaughn**

Austin, NV

##### Master of Ministry Leadership

The M.M.L. is a two-year professional degree designed for men and women serving on a church staff or in other ministry positions.

**Zeal Anawim Beale**

New Orleans, LA

**Paul Holland**

Tyrone, GA

**Robert D. Jacobs**

Orange, CA

**JD Lowry**

Export, PA

##### Master of Divinity

The M.Div. is a three-year professional degree designed for men and women who serve or desire to serve in such roles as ordained pastor, career missionary, or chaplain.

**Omotade Adedeji Agbesanwa**

London, United Kingdom, GB

**W. Daniel Berryhill**

Baxter Springs, KS

**Amy Bouchard Breza**

Ypsilanti, MI

**Joel Howard Guinen**

Greensburg, PA

**Oscar Guobadia**

Essex, United Kingdom, GB

**Andrew Taylor Henson**

Sharpsburg, GA

**Jaimee Christine Holmes**

Spartanburg, SC

**Mark Richard Wolter**

Kyotanabe, Kyoto, JP

##### Doctor of Ministry

The D.Min. is a three-to-six-year professional doctorate designed for men and women to develop transformational leadership competencies in areas such as spirituality, spiritual community, transformational discipleship, or organizational or missional leadership.

**Damian Matthew Snyder**

Leavenworth, KS

About Rockbridge Seminary

##### Rockbridge Seminary Mission

Rockbridge Seminary is an accredited degree-granting institution of higher learning that exists to develop servant leaders for Christian ministry through quality distance educational experiences that allow them to study and practice without leaving their ministry field. Rockbridge Seminary is the only seminary with degree programs built around the five purposes of the church found in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

##### Academic Regalia

The Intercollegiate Code of 1895 set the standards for academic regalia and the colors that would represent the different departments of learning in the academy. This code has been virtually unchanged since its inception over 100 years ago.

Rockbridge’s school colors are blue and white and are found in the silk lining of the hood. Blue represents wisdom and truth. White represents purity. Red panels and trim represent theology, scarlet being the traditional color of the church throughout all ages.

The undergraduate gown is made with long pointed sleeves. The masters gown has a long, oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The rear part of the oblong sleeve is square cut, hanging at forearm’s length below the wrist. The doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves with cuffs, the sleeves encircled with velvet chevrons and the gown face with velvet panels.

The style of the academic hood represents the highest degree earned. The undergraduate hood is the shortest in length with a point at the bottom. The masters hood is slightly longer and fuller, with a narrow panel at the bottom. The doctorate hood is billowed fuller, is four feet in length, and has a wide panel at the bottom.

The black mortarboard is the most common style of cap worn for all degrees. The rounded velvet cap or tam is a common substitution.

Tassel colors reflect the field of learning as established by the Intercollegiate Code, but gold or yellow is usually worn only by those receiving the doctor degree, regardless of the field of learning.

The tassel is moved from the right to the left at the undergraduate level. After that the individual is considered a graduate, and the tassel remains on the left for all future degrees.

##### Rockbridge Seminary Seal

The Seminary Seal consists of five ellipses that represent the five biblical purposes of the church taken from the Great Commandment and the Great Commission found in Matthew 22:35-40 and Matthew 28:16-20. The rectangle in the center of the emblem represents the Bible, God's Word. The Bible is our authoritative source for Rockbridge Seminary.

Blue represents loyalty, commitment, and steadfastness. We are deeply committed to developing spiritual leaders who will share God's Good News to the world and build healthy, growing churches.

##### Facts About Rockbridge Seminary

Seminary Established 2002

Number of Graduates 431

USA States Represented 48

Countries Represented 16

Students Achieved Learning Goals 98%

Students Recommend Rockbridge 99%

Students Satisfied with Studies 97%

Website [www.rockbridge.edu](https://www.rockbridge.edu/)

Twitter [twitter.com/seminary](https://twitter.com/seminary)

Instagram [instagram.com/rockbridgeseminary](https://www.instagram.com/rockbridgeseminary/)

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