



# 2026 COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 2 • 3 p.m. ET

AMBS Chapel of the Sermon on the Mount  
Elkhart, Indiana



**AMBS**

Anabaptist Mennonite  
Biblical Seminary

# COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

## Prelude

### Processional

Prélude (from *Te Deum*)

Marc-Antoine Charpentier  
(arr. Morris)

### » Call to Worship and Invocation

David Boshart, President

### » Hymn

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns"

*Voices Together* 101

### Scripture Reading

Zechariah 4:6, 9-10

### Introduction of Speaker

David Boshart

### Address

"Do Not Despise Small Beginnings"

Leonard Dow, Vice President of Community and Church  
Development, Everence

### Hymn

"Healing River of the Spirit"

*Voices Together* 642

### Recognitions

Mennonite Church USA Hispanic Ministries Partnership  
Nehemiah Institute for Christian Studies Partnership  
Honorary Graduate Certificate

### Interlude

### Presentation of 2026 Candidates

Beverly Lapp, Vice President and Academic Dean

### Conferring of Degrees

David Boshart

### Distribution of Diplomas and Certificates

Beverly Lapp

### Prayer of Blessing

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible

## » Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

*Voices Together* 549

## » Benediction

David Boshart

## » Recessional

Allegro (from *Suite Gothique*)

Leon Boellmann

## Postlude

- » *Where indicated, please rise — in body or in spirit.*

*We request that guests do not use flash photography before the distribution of diplomas and certificates.*

A reception will follow the service in the Waltner Hall Lounge.

## With appreciation

Organist: Chris Gerig Way

Songleader: Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Class of 2026

Scripture readers: Kandace Helmuth (English), Haroldo Martins Nunes (Spanish), Class of 2026; Youngsoo Kang (Korean), Class of 2027

Readers and interpreters: Lynn Chung, Zarái Gonzalía, Hyun Hur, Gilha Lee, Sunghyun Lee, Andrea Orrego Echeverría, Luis Tapia Rubio

Recognition participants: Marco Güete, Hyun Hur, Anna Ruth Hershberger

Technical Team: Brent Graber, Feven Shimeles Hailu

Caterer: Tara Swartzendruber-Landis

Marketing and Communications Team: Morgan Koehler, Annette Brill Bergstresser, Rachel Fonseca

Graduation Planning Committee: Beverly Lapp, Scott Janzen, Triest Fisher, Brent Graber, Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Morgan Koehler

Graduates receive small brass bells that are replicas of the bell that rings on the seminary campus. That bell originally hung in the tower of the Wadsworth (Ohio) Institute, the first Mennonite institution of higher learning in North America, which prepared pastors and teachers for the church. AMBS inherited the bell in 2002. The bells were crafted by friends of the seminary, the late Ervin and the late Erma Steinmann, and Riverside Brass of New Hamburg, Ontario.

# 2026 CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

## Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies

Julie Allyn  
Samuel Graham Burke  
Andrea Cramer  
Ross Ryan Ringenberg  
(Honorary)

## Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Spanish)

Leticia Cortes Castro  
Manuel Arturo García Noriega  
José A. Guerra  
Yanira E. López  
Fernando Loyola Servín  
Haroldo Sergio Martins Nunes  
Sandra Luz Montes-Martinez  
Alva Pérez González  
Liliana Potes-Echeverry  
Mario Rocha Iglesias

## Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism

Yishak Memiru Feleke  
Abel Ekubagebreal Meshesha  
Andrew James Metzler  
Gordon Ondiek Nyabade  
Meseret Shiferra Weyessa

## Master of Arts: Theology and Peace Studies

Christian Berambaye Nawai

## Master of Divinity

Kandace Helmuth  
Randall Douglas Koehler  
Amy Katherine Marshall  
Stephanie J. Wieand

## Doctor of Ministry

Janeen Bertsche Johnson  
James D. Rissler



**Anabaptist Mennonite  
Biblical Seminary**

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A seminary of  
Mennonite Church USA and  
Mennonite Church Canada

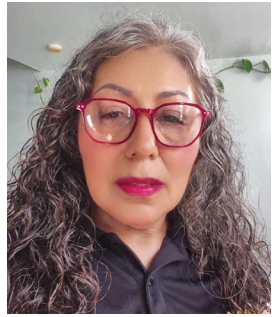
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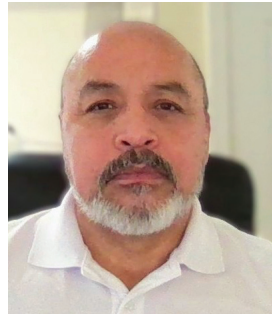
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Christian  
Berambaye Nawai

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Ondiek Nyabade



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Mario Rocha Iglesias



Meseret  
Shiferra Weyessa



Stephanie J. Wieand

# NEHEMIAH INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

## Master of Arts: Theology and Global Anabaptism Cohort

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Yongha Bae  
Seungmin Hyun  
Youngsoo Kang

KyeHyun Kim  
Dongeun Kim  
Sanghwan Ko

Hyunji Lee  
Ha Sub Oh  
Hyeonju Seong

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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Rev. Leonard Dow of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, serves Everence as Vice President of Community and Church Development and leader of the Everence team in Philadelphia. In this role, he leads efforts to resource emerging diverse communities and congregations that historically have been underserved. Dow previously served as Pastor of Oxford Circle Mennonite Church in Philadelphia for nearly 20 years and also founded the Oxford Circle Christian Community Development Association. A graduate of Eastern

Mennonite University (EMU) in Harrisonburg, Virginia, he received EMU's Distinguished Service Award in 2017. He is a board member for the Brooklyn (New York) Peace Center and The Common Place, a community center in Southwest Philadelphia.

