



# FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

**CONVOCATION**

*May 15, 2025*



**Huron**  
UNIVERSITY

## 2025 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT



### **The Right Reverend Rachael Parker, Bishop of Brandon**

Bishop Rachael was born in Lindsay, Ontario and raised in Southwestern Ontario, spending most of her early years in various communities within the Diocese of Huron. After graduating from Saunders Secondary School in London, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Honours English Language and Literature from Brescia University College in 1995. She then attended Huron University, graduating with a Master of Divinity in 1999. During her time at Huron, she served on the Academic Committee and held leadership roles in the Bishop Hallam Theological Society.

Ordained as a deacon in May 1999 and a priest in December of the same year by Archbishop Percy O'Driscoll, Rachael served as Rector of St. Stephen's, Stratford, and Trinity Church, Mitchell, also acting as Regional Dean of Perth. In 2004, she became Rector of Redeemer, London, guiding the parish through its final chapter. Between rectorships, she served as Chaplain at Camp Huron, undertook interim ministry at St. Anne's (Byron), and married Padre Robert Parker in 2005.

In 2006, she became Rector of St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia, serving until 2009 when she stepped away from parish ministry to support her husband's posting to CFB Borden. Rachael continued to minister as an Honorary Assistant at St. Andrew's, Alliston, until their move to Halifax in 2012. There, she became Rector of St. James, Armdale (Halifax), and Regional Dean of Chebucto until 2019, when Rob was posted to Petawawa, Ontario. During their time in the Ottawa Valley, she volunteered as a priest in the multi-point Parish of the Valley – an enriching season of learning and ministry.

With Rob's transfer to Wainwright, Alberta, Rachael became Rector of St. Thomas, Wainwright and St. Mary's, Edgerton. In 2022, she was appointed Archdeacon for Rural Ministries in the Diocese of Edmonton and helped form Dayspring Ministry, joining Wainwright, Edgerton, and St. Saviour's, Vermilion in a new pastoral relationship.

In November 2023, Rachael was elected the 8th Bishop of Brandon and consecrated on 18 March 2024. Since her consecration, she has travelled extensively across her diocese – from Churchill in the north to the Manitoba border in the south – often accompanied by her husband. The Diocese of Brandon is a blend of rural and Indigenous ministries, where faithful clergy and laity embody her favourite phrase: *"I have the best job ever!"*



### **THE LAND WE SHARE**

*We acknowledge Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect and are grateful to host our university community on this land.*

# CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE BY HURON

## PRESIDING

**Barry Craig, B.A. (cum laude), M.A., Ph.D.**  
*President and Vice-Chancellor, Huron*

Please rise as the Procession enters and remain standing.

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**Gonfalon Bearer:** Tianna Alexandria Gocan

## MUSIC

**William Lupton, FGCM LRSM**  
Pianist

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, WELCOME & REMARKS

**Dr. Barry Craig**  
*President and Vice-Chancellor*

## Collect for Huron

**Scripture Reading:** James; 3:13-18

**Reading from Qur'an:** Surah Rūm 30:17-26

## DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DIVINITY (HONORIS CAUSA)

**Daniel A. Smith, B.A., M.Rel., Ph.D.**  
*Vice-President, Academic and Dean, Faculty of Theology*  
will present the citation and request the President  
and Vice-Chancellor, to confer the degree upon,

***The Right Reverend Rachael Parker, B.A. (Hon.), M.Div.***

**The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, B.Sc., M.Div., Th.D.**  
*Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron*  
will hood the candidate.

**Convocation Address**

The Right Reverend Rachael Parker

**Musical Interlude**

William Lupton

## CONFERRING OF DEGREES BY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDING

**Florentine Strzelczyk, Ph.D.**  
*Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Western University*

Esquire Bedel

**Debra Jared, B.A., B.Ed., M.A., Ph.D.**  
*Professor, Department of Psychology, Western University*

*Convocation will stand for the placing of the mace.*

## **DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY, DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES & DEGREE OF MASTERS OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)**

Candidates for the degrees of M.Div., M.T.S. and M.A. (Theology) will be presented by

**Dr. Daniel A. Smith**

*Vice-President, Academic and Dean, Faculty of Theology*

and hooded by

**Dr. Barry Craig**

*President and Vice-Chancellor*

### **Presentation of Licentiate in Theology, Awards, and Prizes**

**Dr. Daniel A. Smith**

*Vice-President, Academic and Dean, Faculty of Theology*

### **Greetings from Western University**

**Dr. Florentine Strzelczyk**

*Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Western University*

Please rise and remain standing until the Procession, led by the Esquire Bedel, exits.

### **Benediction**

**The Right Reverend Dr. Todd Townshend**

*Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron*

### **ACADEMIC PROCESSION EXITS**

*Following Convocation, all are warmly invited to a reception in the Judy and Alan Medline Student Commons to honour our new alumni.*

## **DEGREE & DIPLOMA RECIPIENTS**

### **DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY**

Allison Jeanne Agius  
Bright Arinaitwe  
Philip Carlile Benmore  
Tianna Alexandria Gocan  
Allan Victor Lee  
Christopher R. Tidd  
Gideon Wieggers

### **DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Patricia Frances Mary Boost  
Heather Joanne Martin

### **MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)**

Rana Amr Adly Hamdy

### **LICENTIATE IN THEOLOGY**

Kathleen Grace Aitken  
Elizabeth Anne Dyas  
Cory Robert Lunn  
Noah Kenneth William McLellan  
Wendy Louise McRae  
Jennifer Edith Pakula  
Robert Charles Matthew Pitman  
Jeannie Leah Roches  
David Bruce Zulkoskey

### **HURON UNIVERSITY MEDAL OF DISTINCTION**

William Lupton, O.H., FGCM, LTCL, LRSM,  
AcertCM, ARCT HonFNCM

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES**

The Clarence M. Foltz Scholarship in Spiritual Development  
The John Morden Theology Scholarship  
The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Scholarship in Old Testament  
The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Prize in New Testament  
The St. Mark's by-the-Lake Church Scholarship for Christian Leadership  
The Fisher-Jenkins Scholarships  
The Bishop Bill Hockin Prize for Preaching  
The Irish Benevolent Society Prizes:  
    The Archdeacon Alford Abraham Prize for Homiletics  
    The Canon Maurice Farr Prize for Pastoral Care  
    The Reverend Captain Bill Bennett Prize  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize in Religious History  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize in Systematic Theology  
The Dr. D. Jay Koyle Prize in Liturgics  
The Archbishop Michael Peers Prize in Biblical Languages  
The St. John's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church Award in Youth Ministry  
The Vishnu Family Volunteer Service Award  
The Marr-Bowcott Prize for Academic Achievement in Licentiate in Theology  
The Dr. Sadika Merchant Kidwai and Mr. Arshed Ali Kidwai Research Support Award  
The Barzinji-Mirza Fund Academic Prize in Islamic Ethics  
The Barzinji-Mirza Fund Academic Prize in Quranic Studies  
The Barzinji-Mirza Fund Academic Prize for Interfaith Engagement  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize for Academic Distinction

## **NAMED DONOR FUNDS**

### **CHAIRS**

The Huron-Lawson Chair in Contextual Theology  
The Clark and Mary Wright Chair in New Testament Theology  
The London and Windsor Community Chair in Islamic Studies

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Scholarship in Old Testament Studies  
The Fisher-Jenkins Scholarships  
The Clarence M. Foltz Scholarship in Spiritual Development  
The John Morden Theology Scholarship  
The St. Mark's by-the-Lake Church Scholarship for Christian Leadership  
The William & Prudence Morris Scholarship  
The Anne Maude Kearn Theology Scholarship

## **BURSARIES SUPPORTED BY CHURCHES**

The Canon A.S.H. Cree Memorial Bursary  
St. George's (London) Anglican Church Bursary  
St. John's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church Bursary  
St. Martin-in-the-Fields Anglican Church Bursary  
St. Michael and All Angels 50th Anniversary Bursary  
St. Paul's Cathedral Bursary  
The Trivitt Memorial Bursary for the Transcultural Learning Program  
The Deanery of Brant/Norfolk Bursary  
The Deanery of Delaware Bursary  
The Deanery of Essex Bursary  
The Deanery of Huron/Perth Bursary  
The Deanery of Kent Bursary  
The Deanery of Lambton Bursary  
The Deanery of London Bursary  
The Deanery of Oxford Bursary  
The Deanery of Saugeens Bursary  
The Deanery of Waterloo Bursary

## **BURSARIES SUPPORTED BY ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND STUDENTS**

The Huron Theology Bursary  
The Jane Acres Bursary Fund for Mature Students  
The Chancellor Stephen N. Adams K.C. Bursary for Theological Students  
The Ken and Mary Lou Anderson Bursary  
The Bishop Hellmuth Chapter IODE Bursary  
The Rev'd Arthur G. Brewer Bursary  
The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Bursary  
The Avis Margaret Alberta Cant Memorial Bursary  
The Wendy Carrière Theological Bursary  
The Benjamin Cheung Theology Bursary  
The Archdeacon A. E. (Mickey) and Betty Chovaz Bursary  
The Classes of 2005-2012 Bursary  
The Classes of 2010-2017 Bursary  
The Archdeacon Ken Conyard Bursary  
The Diocese of Huron 150th Anniversary Bursary  
The Diocese of Huron Church History Bursary  
The Canon Lewis Dixon Memorial Bursary  
The Nicholas C. Georgas Bursary  
The Archdeacon Bill and Ruth Gray Bursary  
The Sheila Mae Hamilton Theology Bursary  
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bruce H.W. and E. Jane Howe Bursary  
The Huron Alumni Association 150th Anniversary Bursary  
The Irish Benevolent Society Bursary in Memory of John B. Carson  
The Rev. Charles L. Langford Bursary  
The Miggisie Lawson Memorial Bursary  
The Order of St. Lazarus Bursary  
The Marion Orser Bursary  
The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Geoffrey Parke-Taylor Bursary  
The John and Christopher Peck Bursary  
The SJS Bursary in Theology  
The Reverend Grace Schaefer Memorial Bursary  
The George and Anastasia Scharf Bursary  
The Robert K. Sheridan Memorial Bursary

## **BURSARIES SUPPORTED BY ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND STUDENTS (CONTINUED)**

St. John the Divine (Arva) Bursary  
The Jane and Stuart Smith Bursary  
The Archdeacon Sam and Mrs. Sally Thomas and Family Bursary  
The Rev. Canon William C. Thomas Fund for Religion and Science  
The James and Beverly Thompson Bursary  
The Bishop William A. Townshend Bursary  
The Townshend Family Bursary  
The Rev. Dr. Alistair Weir Theological Bursary  
The Rev. Canon Ernest Wells Bursary Fund  
The Reverend John C. Riddle Bursary

## **AWARDS**

The Bishop Bill Hockin Prize for Preaching  
The Irish Benevolent Society Prizes  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize for Academic Distinction  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize in Religious History  
The Very Rev. Leslie B. Jenkins Prize in Systematic Theology  
The Rev. Dr. D. Jay Koyle Prize in Liturgics  
The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen Prize in New Testament  
The Archbishop Michael Peers Prize in Biblical Languages  
The St. John's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church Award in Youth Ministry  
The Vishnu Family Volunteer Service Award  
The Marr-Bowcott Prize for Academic Achievement in Licentiate in Theology

## **CHAPEL**

The Huron Chapel Ministry Fund  
The Rev. Canon Sidney and Mary Lupton Chapel Fund  
The Archdeacon Harry St. Clair Hilchey and Archdeacon Benjamin J. Thorpe Chapel Fund  
The Rev. Canon Logan and Mrs. Gail (Hubbard '69) Varey Chapel Fund

# DISCOVER A UNIQUE INSTITUTION THAT DEVELOPS LEADERS WITH HEART

For over 160 years, Huron has stood out as a strategically small university that aims to make a positive impact by nurturing the individual gifts of its students and encouraging their engagement with our broader communities. As the founding institution of Western University, Huron has remained committed to providing superior learning experiences that exemplify the most fundamental components of a Liberal Arts education.

This means we go beyond providing graduates with technical training for a specific career path. Instead, we empower our students with creative ways of thinking, challenge them to critically analyse complex ideas, and encourage them to empathize with people whose circumstances may be drastically different from their own.

To protect and build upon the elements of our campus that differentiate Huron from every other university in Canada, we depend on the generous support of our community members, and we are privileged to count such a diverse array of esteemed and engaged citizens as our closest friends.

On behalf of our entire university, we would like to very sincerely thank you for all the ways you contribute to Huron's mission of developing **Leaders with Heart**. We look forward to continuing to build upon our relationships with you to encourage our students to pursue passions that will make the world a kinder, more sustainable and just place.



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[huronu.ca](http://huronu.ca) | [@huronuni](https://twitter.com/huronuni)    