

A Message from President Lakeesha Walrond

Dear beloved students,

We miss your presence! We hope that your summer has been filled with relaxation, restoration and rejuvenation. We pray that you and your families are safe, healthy, and adjusting well during these challenging times.

As the fall semester approaches, Seminaries around the world are being forced to make the tough decision of whether or not to return to the classroom. With much prayer, consultation, research gathering and fact finding, we have made the decision that NYTS will continue our remote learning platform through Zoom and Moodle for the 2020 fall semester. We remain open to the possibility of our smaller classes transitioning to some in-person instruction during the semester, however, the safety of faculty and students will be our first consideration prior to making those decisions. While we would love an immediate return to the physical classroom, mounting concerns for the safety of everyone prevents this from being our reality at the present time.

NYTS is dedicated to providing a comprehensive and rigorous theological education for each of our students. Our plan for the fall semester ensures that every student's experience is more effective, efficient, and engaging. We are prepared for this experience and we want to assure you that honoring your educational investment is our priority. We will host a virtual orientation during our fall convocation for all enrolled students to discuss the digital learning platform and provide additional training, resources and information in order to aid in our transition.

By returning to a digital learning format, we believe that we are doing our part in keeping our community healthy and safe, and slowing the spread of COVID-19. We maintain that everyone's health and safety is both our priority and our mutual responsibility. We are depending on your continued patience, support and prayers as we navigate our ever-evolving world. In the face of extreme challenges, the NYTS community has a long legacy of resilience. We adapt, we innovate, we transition - and we lift each other up in the process. That's who we are. That's what we do. I am proud to be a part of continuing this legacy and I know you are too!

We look forward to welcoming you back virtually in the coming weeks! God bless and keep you.

Many blessings~

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lakeesha Walrond', written in a cursive style.

The Rev. Dr. LaKeesha Walrond
President