



THE INAUGURATION OF
Dr. William D. Barker

19TH PRESIDENT OF
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Southern Wesleyan University is a private Christian liberal arts institution of the Wesleyan Church, an evangelical denomination with roots in the American Holiness tradition. Early Wesleyans were abolitionists, and the denomination has a notable heritage of both social engagement and Gospel proclamation.

Founded as Wesleyan Methodist Bible Institute, the school opened its doors on October 15, 1906 to an initial cluster of 29 students, ranging in age from first grade to college. The name of the school was changed when it was chartered as Wesleyan Methodist College in 1909. Within 10 years, the college had expanded from a single building on opening day to a fully functional campus.

Under economic pressures in the Depression era, the college managed to retain the high school, but dropped the lower grades, and, except for the theological degree, scaled back post-secondary studies to junior college status. By 1959 the high school program was phased out, though, happily, the senior college status was restored. The revamped institution was renamed once again as Central Wesleyan College, and it was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1973.

1986 was a landmark year with the launching of successful adult and graduate studies programs. Both traditional and non-traditional programs continued to expand dramatically over the next several years. Consequently, the institution moved from bearing a town-centric name to a region-centric name, thus becoming Southern Wesleyan University in 1994.

Throughout its history, the university's Christian mission has been central. A clear symbol of this commitment is the presence of Freedom's Hill Church on the university campus. Freedom's Hill was the first Wesleyan meeting house built in the South (1847). As an antebellum abolitionist church, it is a designated stop on South Carolina's National Heritage Corridor. It remains a cherished place of prayer, worship, classes, and meetings for the university. It continues to signify the centrality of our Christian Faith at the university, as well as the continuing need to address society's brokenness with the Good News.

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| L.J. HARRINGTON | 1906-1908 |
| WALTER L. THOMPSON | 1908-1912 |
| JAMES M. HANCOCK | 1912-1915 |
| H. CLARK BEDFORD | 1915-1919 |
| STANLEY W. WRIGHT | 1919-1920 |
| J.J. COLEMAN | 1920-1921 |
| LESTER B. SMITH | 1921-1924 |
| A.E. WACHTEL | 1924-1925 |
| J.J. COLEMAN | 1926-1927 |
| JOHN FRANK CHILDS | 1927-1928 |
| ARTHUR L. VESS | 1928-1932 |
| JOHN FRANK CHILDS | 1933-1945 |
| JAMES B. HILSON | 1945-1948 |
| R.C. MULLINAX | 1948-1968 |
| CLAUDE R. RICKMAN | 1968-1979 |
| JOHN M. NEWBY | 1979-1994 |
| DAVID J. SPITTAL | 1994-2011 |
| TODD VOSS | 2011-2021 |
| WILLIAM D. BARKER | 2022- |

INAUGURATION CEREMONY

PRELUDE Prof. Lori Shelton, Piano

Brethren We Have Met to Worship, Arr. Joseph Martin

†PROCESSIONAL Mr. Devon Broome

The City of Greenville Pipes and Drums

Amazing Grace, Traditional Melody, text by John Newton

Prof. Emerita Jane Dill, Organ

Crown Imperial, William Walton, arr. Herbert Murrill

†INVOCATION Rev. Ken Dill

Associate Vice President for
Spiritual Life and University Chaplain

WELCOME Rev. J. Michael Hilson

Chair, Board of Trustees, Southern Wesleyan University

OFFICIAL GREETINGS

Board of Trustees Rev. J. Michael Hilson

Chair, Board of Trustees, Southern Wesleyan University

Students Ms. Tyreesha Williams

President of the Student Body

Staff Rev. Heath Mullikin

Chairman of the Staff Council

Faculty Prof. Brad Fipps

Chairman of the Faculty Senate

Alumni Mrs. Janene Bryson

President Emerita of Alumni Board

The Wesleyan Church Dr. Wayne Schmidt

General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church

The Community Mr. Andrew J. Beckner

Mayor, Town of Central

Military and Chaplain Corps Ch., Lt. Col. Michael Shannon

United States Air Force, Ret.

†HYMN Dr. Don Campbell

Department of Music Studies Coordinator and Professor of Music

Be Thou My Vision

| | |
|---|--|
| “THANKSGIVING, JOY & HOPE” | Dr. Elaine Phillips Distinguished Professor Emerita, Gordon College |
| SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 10:35-45 | Mr. Daniel Williams Vice President of the Student Body |
| “SERVANT-LEADER” | Rev. Dr. Ivan Satyavrata Chairman of the Board, World Vision International |
| “LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE MILITARY” | Maj. Chris Heiserman United States Air Force |
| †WORSHIP SONGS | SWU Chapel Band <i>This is Amazing Grace</i> <i>The Lion and the Lamb</i> <i>Jesus Loves Me</i> |
| THE <i>SIC TRANSIT GLORIA MUNDI</i> | Rev. J. Michael Hilson |
| PRESENTATION OF THE MEDALLION | Dr. Todd S. Voss Past President, Southern Wesleyan University |
| COMMISSIONING & PRAYER FOR THE BARKER FAMILY | Rev. J. Michael Hilson Rev. Ken Dill |
| INAUGURAL PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS | Dr. William D. Barker President, Southern Wesleyan University |
| †HYMN | Dr. Don Campbell <i>Blessed Assurance</i> |
| †BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL | Rev. Jerry Lumston Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees, Southern Wesleyan University |
| RECESSIONAL | Prof. Emerita Jane Dill <i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i> , arr. Hamlin/Young |
| POSTLUDE | Prof. Emerita Jane Dill Prof. Lori Shelton <i>Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens, Adore Him</i> , arr. John Innes |

† For those who are able, please stand.

DR. WILLIAM D. BARKER

19TH PRESIDENT OF SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



William D. Barker, Ph.D., is an award-winning scholar, military chaplain, and entrepreneur. Barker earned a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies (Jewish Studies) and International Affairs (Middle East Studies) from Gordon College, an M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Cambridge University. He also completed studies at Jerusalem University College, Israel.

Utilizing 16 research languages, Barker authored *Isaiah's Kingship Polemic*—one of only two Hebrew Bible books published per decade by the prestigious firm, Mohr Siebeck. In 2004

Barker was appointed a permanent Fellow of the Cambridge University Overseas Society. Barker is a contributing author to Zondervan's *Archaeology Study Bible*, an editor for multiple publications, and the author of 43 peer-reviewed articles and conference papers. At institutions in the U.S., England, and India, Barker has taught courses in the Hebrew Bible, Jewish Literature, the Liberal Arts, Global Engagement, and the Middle East. He recently served as the Executive Director of the Global Honors Institute and the Center for Faith and Inquiry at Gordon College. Barker is also a regular guest lecturer for the USAF Academy.

With a pastoral heart, Barker serves as a Chaplain with the USAF Reserve. A decorated combat veteran, Barker has deployed to multiple nations in the Middle East and Africa, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Outside of the military, Barker has preached and pastored in contexts throughout the world, including Ecuador, England, Guatemala, India, and Jordan.

Entrepreneurial innovations and strategic planning characterize Dr. Barker's leadership. His diverse business experience includes founding Horizons Soup Kitchen with a one-time grant of \$4,000. Based on Barker's strategic plan, Horizons now serves 50,000 meals per year to those in need with an annual budget of over \$2 million. In his military role, Barker successfully launched strategic initiatives impacting 20,000 Air Commandos and their families around the world. Barker also co-founded a marketing firm, raising an average of \$200 million in assets managed per client. At Gordon College, Barker's leadership played a key role in raising or realigning over \$77 million.

Those who know Dr. Barker best describe him as a passionate Christ-follower with great integrity, loyalty, intentionality, and humility. Dr. Barker's greatest joy is his family. He is the devoted husband of Sara, and the proud father of four wonderful children: Aidin (13), Catharine (9), Isaiah (7), and another daughter (4) whom they are adopting from India.

ELAINE PHILLIPS

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Dr. Elaine A. Phillips is the Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor Emerita of Biblical and Theological Studies at Gordon College. She retired in 2020 after 41 years of teaching—at Jerusalem University College in Israel, Pinebrook Junior College outside Philadelphia, and Gordon College.

Dr. Phillips received an undergraduate degree in Social Psychology from Cornell University, followed by the Master of Divinity degree from Biblical Theological Seminary.

Elaine, along with her husband Perry, studied and taught for three years in Israel. Upon their return, they taught at a small Christian junior college outside of Philadelphia from 1979-1992. Elaine then earned her Ph.D. in Rabbinic literature from The Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning—America’s first degree-granting institution for post-doctoral Jewish studies, now located at the University of Pennsylvania. Elaine taught Biblical Studies at Gordon College from 1993 until 2020.

Elaine and Perry continue to lead students on study tours back to Jerusalem University College where they serve as adjunct faculty for the program in historical geography.

In addition to field study in Israel, her areas of interest and scholarly writing include the books of Exodus and Esther, Biblical Wisdom Literature, and Rabbinic texts. Her commentary on Esther is a part of the *Expositor’s Bible Commentary* series, edited by Tremper Longman III and David Garland. In 2014, her devotional, *With God, Nothing is Impossible*, was published. Her latest book, *An Introduction to Reading Biblical Wisdom Texts*, was published by Hendrickson Publishing in 2017.

Elaine has received awards as Junior Distinguished Faculty, Senior Distinguished Faculty, and Gordon College’s Inaugural Distinguished Professor Award.

She also enjoys music, hiking, and all things related to summers in northwestern Ontario.



DR. IVAN SATYAVRATA

SPEAKER



Dr. Ivan Satyavrata serves as the incoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees for World Vision International.

Dr. Satyavrata recently retired as the Senior Pastor of one of the largest churches in North India – a multilingual congregation of 8 languages and about 5,000 people in Kolkata, India – and the Executive Director of multiple ministries operated under the church's auspices. The schools operated by the church provide education and basic health care for over 10,000 children. The feeding stations of the church provide the only food source available to approximately 12,000

people per day. Additionally, during his time in leadership at the church, Pastor Ivan led ministries to stop human trafficking and provide job training for the “untouchables” of Indian society.

Pastor Ivan also formerly served as the President of Bangalore Christian College in southern India and Chairman of the Board for the Buntain Theological College in northeastern India.

His interests include Christian witness to people of other faiths and the Christian response to social issues.

Pastor Ivan is one of India's leading theologians and cultural engagement experts. His Ph.D. is from the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, England, where he studied under the late, eminent professor John Stott. He is the author of multiple articles, lectures, and books, including: *Holy Spirit, Lord and Life Giver* and *God Has Not Left Himself Without Witness*.

In recent years, he has been a speaker at the annual Global Leadership Summit in Chicago.

Ivan's family—his wife, two sons, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter—are his pride and joy.

MAJOR CHRIS HEISERMAN

SPEAKER

Major Chris R. “Chisel” Heiserman is a TG-16/ TG-15 Evaluator Pilot, 70th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado. He is responsible for the Air Force Reserve instructor component leading United States Air Force Academy cadets as they gain airmanship skills and experience in North America’s largest sailplane operation.

Prior to assuming his current position, Maj. Heiserman served as the Commander, 34th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel. As Commander, he led 49 personnel as they executed 397 combat missions in the U-28A Draco aircraft and provided over 1,950 hours of combat Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance support to Joint Task Force Commanders.



Originally from Wasilla, Alaska, he graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and earned his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. Major Heiserman graduated from Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in 2011 and was assigned as a C-145 pilot at the 318th Special Operations Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Major Heiserman is a senior pilot with over 3,300 flying hours in the C-145, PC-12, U-28A, TG-16 and TG-15 with over 1,500 combat hours during seven deployments in support of Operations Observant Compass, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Freedom’s Sentinel.

EDUCATION

- 2009 Bachelor of Science, Biological Sciences, Colorado State University, CO
- 2009 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL
- 2015 Master of Science, Organizational Leadership, Colorado State University, CO
- 2015 Squadron Officer School, Distinguished Graduate, Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. November 2009 – June 2011, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Sheppard Air Force Base, TX
- 2. July 2011 – September 2015, PC-12/U-28A Aircraft Commander, 318th Special Operations Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, NM
- 3. October 2015 – September 2019, PC-12/U-28A Evaluator Pilot, 34th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL
- 4. October 2019 – May 2022, TG-15/TG-16

- Evaluator Pilot, 94th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, CO
- 5. June 2022 – Present, TG-15/TG-16 Evaluator Pilot, 70th Flying Training Squadron, United States Air Force Academy, CO

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Rating: Senior Pilot
- Flight Hours: more than 3,300, including more than 1,500 combat hours
- Aircraft Flown: T-6A, T-38C, C-145, PC-12, U-28A, TG-16, TG-15

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster
- Air Medal with 4 Combat Devices and 12 Oak Leaf Clusters
- Aerial Achievement Medal
- Air and Space Commendation Medal with 1 Combat Device and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL AND AMERICAN ACADEMIC REGALIA

The formality of the academic processional is rooted in history dating back to the 12th and 13th centuries. Custom and tradition evolved into a code adopted by the American Council on Education. This code is observed today by many institutions of higher education throughout the United States. The processional and other aspects of today's ceremony reflect that code.

The Academic Processional is led by the Faculty Marshal. The honor of serving as the Faculty Marshal, and Mace Bearer, is bestowed upon the senior-ranking Southern Wesleyan University faculty member. The delegates in attendance from other colleges and universities follow the Marshal, in the order of the founding dates of their respective institutions. Next are any delegates in attendance from learned societies and associations. The Southern Wesleyan University Faculty enter next, arranged in order of rank and years of service to the institution, followed by The Board of Trustees, and those speaking during the ceremony. The person to be inaugurated marches at the end of the processional.

The style of each academic gown indicates the highest degree earned by the wearer: bachelor's - long, pointed sleeves; master's - long, closed sleeves with the arm going through a slit, giving the appearance of short-sleeves; doctoral - full, round, and open, with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be black or the color designating the major discipline.

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The hood is lined in the official colors of the university that awarded the degree; the color of the facing indicates the degree. Holders of all degrees wear caps with a long tassel conforming to the degree earned, except that doctors may wear tassels of gold thread.

Although the colors differ in the United Kingdom and Europe, for American schools the following colors have been established by the Intercollegiate Commission:

Agriculture: Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities: White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business: Drab
Dentistry: Lilac
Economics: Copper
Education: Light Blue
Engineering: Orange
Fine Arts, including Architecture: Brown
Forestry: Russet
Journalism: Crimson
Law: Purple
Library Science: Lemon
Medicine: Green

Music: Pink
Nursing: Apricot
Oratory (Speech): Silver Gray
Pharmacy: Olive Green
Philosophy: Dark Blue
Physical Education: Sage Green
Public Administration, including
Foreign Service: Peacock Blue
Public Health: Salmon Pink
Science: Golden Yellow
Social Work: Citron
Theology: Scarlet
Veterinary Science: Gray

THE ACADEMIC MACE

The ceremonial mace carried by Southern Wesleyan's Faculty Marshal represents the heritage, values and authority of the university. This piece of academic tradition has its roots in two separate ancient implements. First, the royal scepter represented the lawful power and regal authority of a king. Secondly, the club-like mace was a common implement of medieval warfare often used by bishops who were forbidden to use the sword. In the medieval period, royal bodyguards often carried a mace to protect the monarch in processions. By the 14th century the mace was highly decorated and was primarily used ceremonially preceding persons of great importance.

The first recorded use of the ceremonial academic mace dates back to 1385 at the University of Vienna. Since that time it has been common for this symbol of authority to be carried in front of academic processions and to be placed on stage whenever degrees are granted.

The Southern Wesleyan University mace was crafted of cherry in 2008 by Tom Boley, a woodworker and artist from Purcellville, Virginia. At the top of the mace is placed the presidential seal of Southern Wesleyan University. Beneath the seal are three rings encompassing the mace representing the Trinity, followed by the Latin phrase, *Soli Deo Gloria*, meaning "glory to God alone." The four rings that follow represent the university's emphasis on faith, knowledge, character, and stewardship.

This mace represents the connection between our faculty of the present, those who have gone before, and those yet to come. It is a symbol that reminds us that despite the passing of time, the influence of men and women called to teach never fades.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

Presidential medallions are closely allied with maces and seals as traditional symbols of authority. The Southern Wesleyan University medallion is inscribed with the presidential seal of the institution and is to be worn over academic regalia on ceremonial occasions, particularly at commencements and convocations. The presidential seal on the medallion depicts the lamp of knowledge, the scroll of Scriptures, a book representing the learning of scholarship, and the entry way of Grimes Hall, an important building from the university's past. All these symbols are placed with the cross of Christ at their center.

THE *SIC TRANSIT* *GLORIA MUNDI*

The *Sic Transit Gloria Mundi* is an ancient tradition of the Church. The phrase is a Latin one which translates, “Thus passes away the glory of the world”.

The ceremony accompanying this phrase has taken many forms since it began in the late 13th century AD. It gained greater use in ordination worship services after 1418 AD when Thomas à Kempis wrote about it in his influential work, *The Imitation of Christ*.

This phrase, “Thus passes away the glory of the world”, is derived from the Scriptures (e.g., Matt. 24:35; Heb. 1:11-12; 2 Pet. 3:10; Rev. 21-22) to indicate that all worldly achievements pass away as quickly as dry hay burns, whereas the Word of God and the reign of Jesus Christ endure forever. This signifies the temporary nature of earthly achievements in contrast to the everlasting nature of the Kingdom of God.

The liturgical response to “*Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*”, or “Thus passes away the glory of the world”, is usually, “*Sic Christus Vincit! Sic Christus Regnat!*”, or “Thus Christ conquers! Thus Christ reigns!”. This represents two things. First, it signifies that Christ will return and inaugurate His eternal Kingdom as quickly as the flame burns. Secondly, the flame and declaration together are a reminder to follow Christ with faithfulness and passion until His Return.

The ceremony includes the individual being ordained or inaugurated into a senior role holding a long piece of flax or a small vessel of hay. After being charged with the sacred duties of leadership, the flax or hay is set on fire. As it burns, those giving the charge declare, “Thus passes away the glory of the world!” as a reminder for the newly set apart leader to never place affections on earthly glory. The response is then given, “Thus Christ conquers! Thus Christ reigns!” as an affirmation of eternal affections and zeal for the Messiah and His Kingdom.

The ceremony is used today as a symbol and seal of the new President’s commitment to serve Father, Son, and Holy Spirit above all else as he serves in this role.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. Cameron W. Benson

Dr. Daniel A. Berry

Mr. James Bross, Jr.

Rev. Waymond Burton

Mr. Thomas H. Cayce

Dr. Robert Dale Hale

Rev. Thomas L. Harding

**Rev. J. Michael Hilson,
Chair**

Mr. James Jensen

Rev. Jonathan Lewis

Dr. Verna J. Lowe

Rev. Jerry L. Lumston

Dr. Kevin Myers

Dr. John Ott

Rev. Gregory D. Reynolds

Mrs. Sue Rickman

Rev. Frankie Rodriguez

Rev. Heather Semple

Rev. Aaron Sherman

Mr. Keith Smith

Rev. Patrick J. Styers

Rev. Johanna Rugh

Rev. Russ Gunsalus

Dr. Wayne Schmidt

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Dr. April White Pugh

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Brian Swords

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing

Dr. Chris Confer

Vice President for Student Life

Mr. Scott Drury

Vice President for Advancement

Mr. Devon Broome

Interim Vice President for Finance

DELEGATES

*We welcome the following representatives who join the
Southern Wesleyan University trustees and faculty in academic procession.*

1880

Presbyterian College

Mr. Francis Schodowski, VP for Advancement

1883

Houghton University

Dr. Wayne Lewis, President

1889

Clemson University

Dr. Bob Jones, Executive VP for Academic Affairs and Provost

1891

North Greenville University

Dr. Gene C. Fant, Jr., President

1901

Trevecca Nazarene University

Dr. Dan Boone, President

David Snodgrass, Board of Trustee

1905

Oklahoma Wesleyan University

Dr. James A. Dunn, President

1916

Montreat College

Dr. Paul J. Maurer, President

1918

Lee University

Suzanne Hamid Holt, VP for Student Success & Retention,
Interim VP for Student Life

1927

Bob Jones University

Dr. Gary Weier, Provost and Executive VP for Academic Affairs

1945

Kingswood University

Erik Ireland, Associate VP for Kingswood Extended

1965

Charleston Southern University

Dr. Dondi E. Costin, President



2022-2023 VERSE OF THE YEAR

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

MILITARY

Chaplain, Gen. Dondi E. Costin, Retired
United States Air Force

Chaplain, Col. Brad Fipps, Retired
United States Army National Guard

Vice Commander Adam MacLeod
United States Coast Guard

Lt. Col. Andrew Beckwith
United States Marine Corps

Lt. Col. Eric Bennett
United States Air Force

Chaplain, Lt. Col. S. Quint Pitts, Retired
United States Air Force

Chaplain, Lt. Col. Mike Shannon, Retired
United States Air Force

Major Andrew Hechinger
United States Air Force

Major Chris Heiserman
United States Air Force

Major Kristin Heiserman
United States Air Force

Chaplain, Major Kyle Ivy
United States Air Force

Chaplain, Major Kenneth Johnson
United States Air Force

Major Richard LaGrua
United States Air Force

MILITARY

Chaplain, Major Eddy Sanders
United States Air Force

Major Andrew Sexton
United States Air Force

Major Molly Sexton
United States Air Force

Major Kevin Warmington
United States Air Force

Captain Sean Cothran
United States Air Force

Captain Tanner Lott
United States Air Force

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To the University's Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, Trustees, Donors, and Friends of the University community: We express our profound gratitude. Thank you for so warmly welcoming us and our family. There are so many of you who, as individuals and groups, have enriched our lives and made today's celebration a reality. We heartily thank all of you for your prayers, your diligent service, your kindness, and the many evidences of your Faith in Christ.

To our children, Aidin, Catharine, and Isaiah: We love you. We are proud of you. Thank you for moving with us to South Carolina and this Christ-centered university. May your hearts and your lives always follow Jesus and God's Word.

To our Family and Friends: Words cannot express the depth and extent of our love and gratefulness for you. Our lives and our Faith are extraordinarily blessed by you. We are thrilled and delighted that you are here today. Thank you.

To our Military Family: It is one of our great honors to know you, serve alongside of you, and enjoy your friendship. Whether you are a Chaplain or our U-28A Draco Team (past or present, Air Commando or military family member): we are proud of you, we love you, and we are grateful for you. Thank you for being here today.

To our Trustees, Faculty, and Staff: Thank you for your diligent work, the way you share your lives with the people of this university, your genuine Faith, your humor, your endurance, and your love for our students. Thank you for welcoming us and our children, and thank you, most of all, for your prayers.

To our Students: Thank you for your joy in being here, your eagerness to learn, your welcome of our children, and your willingness to share with us your hopes, dreams, struggles, and Faith in our great God and Savior. You are the reason God has called us here. We delight in seeing you flourish because of Him.

We offer our thanks to each member of the platform party for their role in today's program, and for the many elected officials and delegates representing their various institutions and districts.

We commend and enthusiastically thank the many people on the Inauguration Team who made today possible. We especially are grateful for the leadership of Jennifer Walker, Brittany Bickel, Shari Gibson, the Division of Fine Arts Faculty, Leonard Hughes, the Advancement Team, the Marketing Team, Pioneer College Services, Conference Services and their volunteers for today, Physical Plant, Campus Safety, Athletics, and all those working in technology and audio/visual support. You have made today a memorable and meaningful celebration. Thank you.

Finally, we offer our most profound and unequivocal gratitude to God. It is our prayer that the celebration today, as well as the time of our service yet to come, will most honor, glorify, and please Him above all things. *For Christ and His Kingdom!*

- Bill & Sara Barker



THE BARKER FAMILY

From left: Isaiah, Sara, Catharine, William, and Aidin

