2020 Commissioning Address

DR. M.G. “PAT” ROBERTSON

Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson is founder, chancellor and CEO of Regent University. Robertson has achieved national and international recognition as a religious broadcaster, philanthropist, educator, religious leader, businessman and prolific author. In addition to his significant role at Regent, he is the founder and chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) Inc., and founder of International Family Entertainment Inc., Operation Blessing International, American Center for Law and Justice, The Flying Hospital Inc., and several other organizations and broadcast entities.

Robertson is the son of Gladys Churchill Robertson and A. Willis Robertson, who served for 34 years in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. He entered Washington and Lee University in 1946, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1948, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. After graduating magna cum laude from Washington and Lee University in 1950, Robertson served as assistant adjutant of the First Marine Division in combat in Korea and was promoted to first lieutenant upon his return to the states in 1952. He received a Juris Doctor degree from Yale University Law School in 1955 and a Master of Divinity degree from New York Theological Seminary in 1959.

Honors for his humanitarian efforts include:
- Lifetime Achievement Award, 2017 - 25th Silver Anniversary Movieguide Awards
- Winston Churchill Lifetime Achievement Award, 2013 - Faith & Freedom Coalition
- Hampton Roads Business Hall of Fame, 2009
- New York Theological Seminary Distinction in Ministry Award, 2009
- The State of Israel Friendship Award, 2002 - Zionist Organization of America, Chicago
- Cross of Nails Award for his work with The Flying Hospital, 2000
- Defender of Israel Award, 1994 - Christians’ Israel Public Action Campaign
- One of America’s 100 Cultural Elite, 1992 - Newsweek Magazine
- Christian Broadcaster of the Year, 1989 - National Religious Broadcasters
- Man of the Year, 1988 - Students for America
- Humanitarian of the Year, 1982 - Food for the Hungry

Robertson is past president of the prestigious Council on National Policy. He has served on President Ronald Reagan’s Task Force on Victims of Crime, the Board of Virginia Economic Development Partnership and the Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Robertson also founded and served on the Christian Coalition of America.

He and his wife, Dede, have four children, 14 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, and reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
Commissioning Service

We Are More Than Conquerors
“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us.”
Romans 8:37

Welcome & Address from the Dean ................................................................. Dr. Corné J. Bekker
Dean, School of Divinity

Academic Award Recipients ........................................................................... Dr. Corné J. Bekker

Dean’s Faculty Award ...................................................................................... Dr. Corné J. Bekker

Introduction of the Executive Vice President .............................................. Dr. Corné J. Bekker

Congratulatory Remarks .............................................................................. Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño
Executive Vice President, Regent University

Introduction of the Chancellor ................................................................. Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riaño

Chancellor’s Commissioning Address ....................................................... Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson
Founder, Chancellor & CEO, Regent University

Benediction ................................................................................................. Dr. Corné J. Bekker
Today is your commissioning service. During this service, we celebrate the empowering call of the Holy Spirit and commission you in the name of Jesus Christ to live a life of radical obedience to our Heavenly Father.

What does such a call entail? The Apostle Paul models for us a Christ-centered approach to vocation when he writes to a church in deep crisis:

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclamationg to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. ~1 Corinthians 2:1-5, ESV

In a world marked by self-obsession, increasing narcissism and an incessant hunger for fame, may we be so taken with the lordship of Christ that He becomes our sole message. An early church father, Ignatius of Antioch (35-108 A.D.), echoes this call to Christ-centered ministry:

Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas, but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with clever speech, but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with Christ himself.
~Paraphrased, Syriac version of the Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 3

As you go forth, make Christ and His gospel your focus! Be confident that His Spirit will empower you to honor the Father’s name in all that you do. Proclaim His word with humility and meekness, and you will be a witness of the transforming power of His Spirit in this world.

You are in our hearts and prayers and we look forward with great anticipation to see all that our Lord will do in and through you.

To Him be all the glory!

Pax et Bonum,
Corné J. Bekker, D.Litt. et Phil.
Dean, Regent University School of Divinity
Candidates for Graduation

**MASTER OF ARTS**

Kimberly Averette
Marlyn Genois Baker
Cynthia Burrell Banks
Steven Lee Bargar
Solomon Cooper Bostic
Marlowe Donte Brown Sr.
Peggy Yolanda Brown
Vinroy David Brown Jr.
Robert Edward Bryant
Lauren A. Burns
Pamella Jacqueline Burton
Son-Djerry Cameus
Shannon Melissa Cantrell
Brevonda Sidney Carothers
Shanda Lynnette Carter
Aneillia Chambers
Yvonne Cecilia Clark
Justin Lee Countryman
Brittany Sloan Crawford
Mary E. Cromuel
Camille Davis
Darlene Lynette Davis
Kodedra Dockery
Deborah Ann Edwards
Tracy Octavia Eubanks
Ruben Floreal
Duanita Mechelle Franklin
Roslyn E. Graham
Trudy Nadine Lee Green
Leander Nathaniel Harris Sr.
Nancy Janet Mawuli Agbenu-Hartman

Jeremy Clay Haynes
Adam Hines
Michael Lynn Holloman Sr.
Walter Lee Holmes III
Rebecca Ingram
Colleen Jacks-Turner
Elyada Adi Joesianta
Evelynn LaVerne Johnson
Gregory P. Johnston
Kirsten Leigh Jones
Kolton Marshall Masters Jones
Tyler Blake Jordan
Kristen Lee Loughman
Felicia Jane Nicole Lyle
Stephen William Mabe
Nadine Mandevu
Kemlia Harris Marshall
Craig Wilfred Martin Sr.
Shebu Mathew
Jacob Allen McCleese
Clarence LaVaughn McCutchen
Blake Ashton McGrath
Kaitlynn Christina Merckling
Obianuju Nwosu
Linda Smith Packer
Angeline Grace Payne
Amanda Petrick Kern
Mesac Philogene
Patrick Riley
Ryan Baden Robinson
Kara L. Rochester Garcia
Christine Roebuck
Christina LaDonn Ruffin
Shannon Nicole Sanchez
John D. Scott
Jeanie W. Shaw
Flora M. Skipwith
David Lamont Smith
Deidrick Ladonn Smith
Jene Nicole Souder
Nina T. Street
Jacqueline Ann Trim
Eric Jerome Wardlaw
Ronald Maurice Wheatley
Erica Denise White-Dunston
Edward Carl Williams Sr.
Patricia Ann Young

**MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**

Mark Aarstad
Ilya Kirill Anderson
Robin Wiggins Ashford
Jillian Derrick Bain
Joseph Haim Benami
Ryan Joseph Cappadony
Leopoldo Alberto Dobronski Jacome
June Coleson Doyle
Eddie Ellis Jr.
Michael Antonio Hardwick
Yi-Jen Huang
Robert Kenneth Lowe
Skylar Donovan McManus
Krista Lynn Morris
Fredrick O'Dell
Arthur Lee O'Neal II
Annette Vaya Stone
Katharina-Luise Tanksley
Jimmie Wilson True
Sheila Rene West

**MASTER OF DIVINITY**
Ashley E. Allinger
William Scott Beaman
Karen Jean Beaumont
Debra Renee Bell
John Cortez Benton
Kristen Ann Berg
Anthony Paul Boscarino Jr.
Preston Cole Braswell
Markeith D. Brisco Sr.
James L Byrd
Ronald Jones Cannon
Kiel Tate Cary
Floyd Chambers
Paul Tuising Chin
Shawn Dale Coley
Angelia Cooper*
Eric William Covington
Devon Cyrille
Woodrow Davis
Aristo Jesse Dorshak
Keith N. Drakeford-Boynes Jr.
Adam Spirit Dye
Aigbefo Dominion Ehihi
Gloristine Evins
Stephen A. Fava
Richard L. Ferguson
Nancy Carol Fields
John Louis Florendo
La Toya Monee' Flowers
Jacob Timothy Alan Fosberg
Brian L. Fox
Samantha Anne Francart
Eric Paul Fretz
Eddie Alexander Fuller Sr.
Aaronica Glover
Peter Davis Gosnell Jr.
Courtney Nicole Griffin
Emily R. Grimm
Stephen Michael Guziec
Benjamin Allen Harris Jr.
Jacob Helmka
Matthew Aaron Hess
Heidi Anne Whitcomb Holland
Emily Faye Hughes
Deborah Maria Jackson
Ryan David Johnson
Anthony Adolfo Jorge
Stefanie Joyce
Sharae Kelley
Laurenda Kuffour
Zachary Ryan Kuster
Katherine Laird
Altash Kebebe Leonard
Dayna Marie Lovelady
Opal M. Lowe
Whitney Danielle Mathis
Jennifer Lynn Maybeth Barrios
Cykeithia Sharona McPherson
Andrew J. Miller
David Munoz
Mark Andrew Murray
Jeremiah Joonho Park
Yolanda Patrice Person
Olivia Lynn Phillips
Carlos M Quijada
John Edward Raschdorf Jr.
Melvin Edward Reid
Anthony Richardson
Dereko J. Robertson
Kimberly Rene Rosenberg
Josue Santiago
Richard Rudolph Sarmiento
Christopher Bryant Satterfield Jr.
Sarah Nicole Seda
Benjamin Shearer
Pamela D Shekailo
Gwendolyn Louise Shellman
Timothy Daniel Springs
Liam Oliver Staley
Terri Lee Sykes
Mark W. Tague
Brian Keith Taylor
Torrey Jermaine Thompson
Alexander Tomren
Emana E. Usanga
Sherilyn Diane Allen-Ware
Phillip Wayne Wyman Jr.
John W. Yelland
Hollis Dann Young III

**MASTER OF THEOLOGY**
Kevin Scott Barker
Derek Michael Geerlof
Michael Shane Smith

*Degree awarded posthumously*
Greetings From Alumni Relations

Welcome to the Regent University Alumni Association! Upon graduation you will join a community of over 26,000 alumni in all 50 states and across the world. As your Alumni Officers, we want to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and invite you to stay in touch with us. Visit regentalumni.org today to create your alumni profile. Although you may be completing your time as a student at Regent University, we hope you will always stay connected to your Regent family. You can follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/regentalumni, Instagram by searching @regentalumni, or LinkedIn at linkedin.com/regentalumni.

Congratulations Class of 2020!

Your Alumni Officers,
Ashley Weekley & Alora Tejada
## Faculty of the School of Divinity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corné J. Bekker, D.Litt. et Phil.</td>
<td>Dean, Professor, Director of the Ph.D/Th.M. Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Adams, D.Min., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Ervin Alexander, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Anderson, D.Min., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry K. Asplund, Ed.D, D.Min.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick J. Bopp, D.Min.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana J. Cavallaro, D.Min.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane J. Chandler, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale M. Coulter, D.Phil.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mara Lief Crabtree, D.Min.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley J. Embry, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Flynn, D.Min.</td>
<td>Associate Dean of Instruction &amp; Operations, Associate Professor, Dir. of D.Min. Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Gilbert, D.Min.</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Director of Master's Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Gräbe, Doctor Divinitas</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark A. Jumper, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Director of Chaplaincy &amp; Military Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Kame, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alemayehu Mekonnen, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Perigo, D.W.S.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David A. Quackenbos, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Reams, D.Min.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uwe C. Scharf, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Spawn, D.Phil.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Lyle Story, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carrie Wood, Ph.D. (ABD)</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archie T. Wright, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Memory of Dr. Vinson Synan

The Rev. Dr. Harold Vinson Synan died on March 15, 2020 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Synan served as dean of the Regent University School of Divinity from 1994 to 2006, and then achieved emeritus status while he continued his contributions to teaching and mentoring. While serving as dean, Synan was instrumental in supporting and encouraging the emerging educational resource of online learning programs and courses. As a strong advocate for women’s roles in ministry, Synan initiated the hiring of the first female faculty members at the School of Divinity.

A distinguished scholar of the Holy Spirit’s renewal of the church, Synan was magnanimous in his acceptance and love for all Christians. With a gracious spirit, Synan embraced the body of Christ in all its diversity. He touched and influenced countless lives as a pastor, denominational leader, scholar, teacher, and mentor.

“Dr. Vinson Synan was a powerhouse minister who God used to bring His people together and grow His kingdom,” said Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, founder, chancellor and CEO of Regent University. “He was also a world-class scholar who recorded God’s mighty works and trained new generations of ministers as dean of the Regent University School of Divinity.”

He was intensely interested in supporting the scholarship of both faculty and students and generous in his mentoring of those who needed scholarly guidance. With his leadership, the School of Divinity progressed to new levels of moving forward in its vision and mission to the glory of God.

“Today, the Regent University School of Divinity is known as a center for research on revivals and renewal movements,” said Dr. Corné J. Bekker, dean of the Regent University School of Divinity. “We are indebted to Dr. Synan for not only establishing and nurturing the robust research stream in church history at Regent, but his love for God’s church continues to inspire us to serve the body of Christ in faithfulness and humility.”

During the final phase of his prolific career, Synan and his wife moved to Oklahoma, where they would experience the joys of nearby family. With that move, Synan continued in educational leadership as interim dean of the College of Theology and Ministry at Oral Roberts University, later serving as Scholar in Residence. In 2017, he presented a moving address in Rome at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

In 2018, Synan, as a son of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was named to the Historical Hall of Fame of the Virginia History Series, a nonprofit devoted to the collection, organization, presentation, and dissemination of information about Virginia’s history. Synan served the global Church and academy with great faithfulness. He will be greatly missed at Regent University, but his legacy continues with eternal impact.
History of Academic Regalia

The gowns and hoods worn at Regent University graduation ceremonies stem from a distinctive style of academic dress which emerged in the first universities in Europe during the twelfth century. During that era, the masters and scholars were often members of the clergy, which influenced the style of dress.

In 1222, at the Council of Oxford, the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered English clerics to wear the cappa clausa, a closed, flowing gown based on the lay fashion of the period. The gown came to be regarded as academic dress for the university masters who were also clerics. Later the edict was neglected by the clergy in general and the garment became recognized exclusively as an academic garment.

The pileus, a common head-dress of medieval laymen, was adopted by the Church at the Synod of Bergamo (1311) and became the typical headwear at universities. The pileus quadratus, “square cap,” is today’s mortarboard worn by most graduates.

The hood as an academic vestment, originated from the cowl worn as protection against inclement European weather by monks in the Middle Ages. It was worn over a short cape, known as a tippet. The hood had a tail, known as a liripipe, which was used to pull the hood over the head and to wrap around the throat to keep the hood in place. Today the tippet remains as part of the hood and, although the hood is never worn on the head, the liripipe is retained as the funnel-shaped hood. The tradition of wearing the hood hanging down the back is said to be derived from the practice of medieval monks, many of whom were solicitors in the King’s Court, who used the bag-like hanging hood as a contribution bowl for clients and well-wishers.

Colors have long been significant in denoting different academic disciplines and more recently, levels of scholastic achievement. Standard gowns of different shape, length, and sleeve design indicate the degrees of Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate. The robes of the Chancellors, Presidents, Vice Chancellors, and Vice Presidents often signify their respective offices rather than the award of the wearer.
“We Are More Than Conquerors.”

ROMANS 8:37
Mission & Vision

The mission of Regent University is to serve as a leading center of Christian thought and action, providing excellent education from a biblical perspective and global context in pivotal professions to equip Christian leaders to change the world.

The vision of Regent University is to be the most influential, Christian, transformational university in the world.