

Commissioning Service

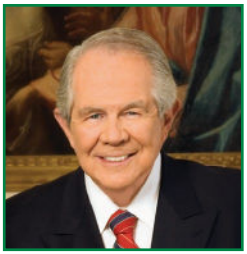
MAY 4, 2023



REGENT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

2023 Commissioning Address

DR. M.G. "PAT" ROBERTSON



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

- International Christian Visual Media Legend Award, 2022
- 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 the 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.

Robertson and his late wife, Dede, have four children, 14 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren, and he resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Commissioning Service

For His Glory

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! (Ps. 115:1)

Welcome & Prayer ..... Dr. Corné J. Bekker
Dean & Professor, School of Divinity

Introduction of the Chancellor ..... Dr. William L. Hathaway
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Chancellor's Message ..... Dr. M.G. "Pat" Robertson
Founder, Chancellor & Chief Executive Officer of Regent University

40th Year Anniversary ..... SOD Faculty

Invocation ..... Dr. Joseph Umidi
Executive Vice President for Student Life

Praise & Worship ..... Chamber Choir & Dr. Joan Pi
Assistant Professor; Director of Choral Activities

Faculty Charge to Graduates ..... Dr. Leroy Gilbert
Associate Professor, School of Divinity

Dean's Charge to Graduates ..... Dr. Corné J. Bekker
Dean & Professor, School of Divinity

Commissioning Awards ..... SOD Faculty

Graduate Awards ..... Dr. James T. Flynn
Associate Dean & Associate Professor, School of Divinity

Hooding of the Graduates ..... SOD Faculty

Alumni Induction ..... Andrea Tatum
Alumni Affairs

Benediction & Prayer ..... Dr. Dan Goff
D.Min. Graduate '06, Senior Pastor of Calvary Assembly of God

Message from the Dean

Beloved Graduates,

Today is your commissioning ceremony! Today we celebrate God's calling on your life, His faithful provision, and the bright future He has for you; hallelujah! You carry the future of His church within you, and we are all excited to see what our Lord will continue to do in and through you.

We commission you into a world in desperate need of God's transforming grace. We send you forth, empowered by His Holy Spirit, during a time when Godly and holy leadership is urgently needed. I am reminded of a letter that John Wesley[1] wrote to the lay preacher, Alexander Mather, in which he observed:

> *Our preachers, many of them, are fallen. They are not spiritual. They are not alive to God. They are soft, enervated, fearful of shame, toil, hardship. . . Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon Earth.*

Wesley's astute diagnosis of the church leaders of his day rings sadly true in our time. But Wesley also, guided by the Word of God, recognized that the key to revival was to cultivate a deep desire for God and a holy fear of Him. In Psalm 85, the psalmist, reflecting on the need for revival in his own time, declared: "*Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land*" (Psalm 85:9, ESV). When we honor and respect God, His holiness and glory will dwell in our land. Psalm 85 continues by listing the results of God's glorious holiness inhabiting our lands:

> *Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way* (Psalm 85:10-13, ESV).

When we fear God, His footsteps become our path. As we seek to imitate His eternal Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, righteousness, and peace are joined together in a powerful demonstration of God's steadfast love. Jesus modeled this reverential submission to His Father when He taught His disciples to pray; "*our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:9-10, ESV). When we, in reverential fear, honor God's Holy Name, He establishes His kingdom and reign in our world. The gates of hell cannot stand against this advance of God's Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth.

I encourage you to always hallow God's name in all you do. May your service of Him be marked by an ever-increasing desire for Him and His holy Word. May your obedience to His will bring fruitful revival and restoration wherever you serve His Church. Jesus promised that He would build His Church on the rock of the revelation that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God, and that "*the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matthew 16:18, ESV). His promise is eternal and secure. Be confident to work to advance God's Kingdom on the strength of that promise, always with His Spirit's presence and power.

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[1] Tyerman, Luke. *The Life and Times of the Rev. John Wesley.* London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1871, Volume III, p.632.

Congratulations to you and your spouses, children, parents and grandparents, friends, and pastors. We have you in our hearts and prayers. We pray and hope to maintain our fellowship with you through the years ahead. Go forth in the power of His Holy Name and His Holy Spirit! May His Kingdom come, and His will be done in your life and the life of His Church.

We now commission you for holy service in the holy name of Jesus Christ!

Your servant,

Corné J. Bekker, D.Litt. et Phil.
Dean & Professor, Regent University School of Divinity

School of Divinity Mission & Vision

The Regent School of Divinity exists for the glory of God by providing biblical, theological and ministerial education that seeks to be faithful to the Scriptures and emphasizes the renewing work of the Holy Spirit in order to train laborers who will bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Church, the world, and the academy. We support the mission and vision of Regent University in the following ways:

1. **Biblical fidelity**: We are committed to excellence in theological and ministerial education that is grounded in the authority of the Bible as the eternal, infallible and inspired Word of God.
2. **Trinitarian worship**: We seek to offer our labor in education and research as worship of the Triune God and aim to declare His holiness and glory in all that we do.
3. **Spiritual renewal**: We are focused on the renewing presence of the Holy Spirit from creation to the consummation, and embrace the biblical, historical and contemporary expressions of His renewing work.
4. **Holistic formation**: We understand the call to formation to be the lifelong process of being conformed to the image of Christ by His Spirit and seek to promote holistic habits of spirit, soul and body that promote human and ministerial flourishing.
5. **Ecclesial focus**: We desire to serve the Body of Christ with humility and integrity, recognizing the central role of the Church in the eternal plan of God.
6. **Missional leadership**: We participate in God's mission by providing education, training, empowerment and equipping to all whom God calls, regardless of ethnicity or gender.
7. **Prophetic relevance**: It is our vision to graduate Christ-centered leaders that will be prophetic witnesses in their generation, standing firm in their commitment to biblical values of holiness and morality.

Prayer of Thanksgiving to God

"Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 106:1 ESV)

Thank You, Father, for calling us from the wretchedness of sin and lawlessness to the beauty of Your holiness, that through Jesus Christ in whom we are saved, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit, we may go forth to minister Your word and to call others to become disciples.

Thank You for placing Your inspired vision in the hearts and minds of those who would generously respond to Your call to build and support a school for Your glory.

Thank You for giving the vision and mission to preach, teach, and minister the truth of Your Holy Word and to prepare Your people who would study and be called, by You, into all the world with the message of the glorious gospel.

Thank You for the love, the knowledge, the wisdom, the healing, and the abundant provision You have supplied the School of Divinity since its inception as You prepare the lives of those You call here to serve You and give You glory.

Thank You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, that in Your lovingkindness, in Your gracious mercy, in Your tender care, in Your daily guidance, You give us the privilege and joy of sharing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ and by your grace, learning the reality of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

We give You thanks for Your abounding faithfulness, Your countless blessings, your loving care, and guidance, as the School of Divinity has continued, by Your grace, throughout 40 years, as we renew our commitment for the years ahead, to prepare "Christian leaders to change the world" for Your glory.

Thank You for Your call to us as a school where those who are faithful study and train, prepared by Your Spirit, to go forth across the world, so others may know You, worship You, and serve You as the one true and Eternal God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

" 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen' " (Rev. 7:12 ESV).

40th Anniversary Resolution

WHEREAS the Regent University School of Divinity was founded in 1982 as the School of Biblical Studies of CBN University with these commitments:

- A Biblical foundation that honors the full authority of God's Word;
- Identity as an independent Biblical and Evangelical school serving the whole Church;
- The Biblical basis of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and God's continual working of miracles, as expressed and practiced in Renewal Theology;
- Pursuit of the principles of God's Kingdom to prepare students who are empowered to serve; and

WHEREAS God has blessed the School of Divinity with 40 years of faithful leadership, faculty, staff, and students, who have together created a ministry witness of graduates fulfilling these commitments; and

WHEREAS God has allowed the school to increase in enrollment as an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools, offering both master's and doctoral programs; and

WHEREAS God has blessed the school as a center of Biblical Renewal Theology that educates graduates to prepare others for the coming of Christ.

WE OF THE REGENT UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY THEREFORE RESOLVE TO:

EXPRESS THANKSGIVING TO GOD for His gracious care of the School, its people, mission, and vision;

PRAISE GOD that He has provided education and training to prepare graduates to serve the Lord with strength and fruitfulness in ministry, scholarship, and leadership;

REDEDICATE ourselves to the Lord's purposes as understood in the School of Divinity's Biblically-based founding principles;

STRIVE to show ourselves approved as God's faithful workers who rightly handle the word of truth with discernment, wisdom, and excellence to make Christian disciples worldwide in all the coming years that God grants.

RESOLVED at the School of Divinity's Commissioning Service on the fourth day of May in the Year of our Lord 2023, to the glory of God. Amen.

Be Strong in the Lord

Tom Kettke

Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage;
Your defender is He who is always the same.
Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending;
Vict'ry is sure when you call on His name.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for He is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Put on the armor the Lord has provided;
Place your defense in His unfailing care.
Trust Him for He will be with you in battle,
Lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for He is your guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage;
Your mighty commander will vanquish the foe.
Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always His;
He will protect you wherever you go.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And be of good courage for He is your Guide.
Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours.

Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord;
And rejoice for the vict'ry is yours, Be strong!

I Surrender All

SURRENDER by Winfield S. Weeden / arr. Victor C. Johnson

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine.
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine.

I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.
All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee.
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me.
I surrender all, I surrender all.
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all. I surrender all.

Candidates for Graduation

MASTER OF ARTS IN COSMOGONY & APOLOGETICS

Leni Donnell Anderson
Brenda Degnan
David Vinson
Jane Wanjira

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Jennifer Winge

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Brandon Patrick
Marvin Schrebe
Joshua Squire

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY & FORMATION

Abigail Robertson Allen
Bailey Elizabeth DeBree
Caryn Fukuda
Idania Sirleny Hidalgo
Ronette Latrice Hudson
John Irving
Koko Josey-Eason
Carlton Grant Murphree
Liberty Morano
Christine Elizabeth Payne
Hideki Ui

MASTER OF ARTS IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Trixia Aguinaldo
Joel Andrus
Benjamin David Bandy
Mary E Cromuel
James Clayton Foster
Benjamin Lee Fraley
Weber C Lyncee
Nicole Tiara McKenna
Wendell Nipper
Stephen Pickard
Joseph Sawyer
Micheal Young

MASTER OF ARTS IN EVANGELISM & MISSION

Preston Aaron Harris

MASTER OF ARTS IN ONLINE MINISTRY

Clara Gafford
Jason Helton
Michael Hicks
Roberta Jones
Merritt Catherine Murphy

MASTER OF ARTS IN PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Yolanda Brannen
Julia Morales Morales Casillas
Krishon Davis
Mikella Van Dyke
Rachel Marie Ehbrecht
Clairon Triness Hall
Lenetta Rochelle Humphrey
Debra Leblond Jones
Aneysa Rochelle Matthews
Chiquila McCabe
Wilma G Mharess
Pauline Minor
Bolutife Adedapo Oluyomi
Frances Overton
Melissa Anne Raide
Sarah Renee Rinkenberger
Latonya Michelle West

MASTER OF ARTS IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Ryan Peterson

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Doris Blanks
Daniel David Bracamonte
Shanda L Carter
Nathan John Cichorz
Alisha Shaunete Cowan
Shanon Crenshaw
Rachael Marie Crews
Kimberley Crishom
India W Donald
Herbert Ducre
Brian Gauthier
Jessie Lynn Liles
Richard Dean Maggard Jr
Susanne Martha Maynes
Holly Eileen McCredy
Jay Kent McKay
Jonathan Noble
Augustina Nwabueze
Janet Rice

Brooke Lauren Rohme
Kristin Nicole Smith
Timothy Guy Thompson
Aleksandar Tolmachev
Kamall Varner

MASTER OF DIVINITY

Godwin Hosea Ampofo
Kobena Arthur Jr
Matthew W Ataya
Gilbert Ray Baker
Candice Patricia Barlow-Jones
Darah Denise Barnes
Andree D Baylor-Lloyd
William Scott Beaman
Jill Bennett
Keyshia Beverly
Mark D Bitner
Courtland J Blade
Fred Raymond Blinsmon
Jerry Allen Bradley Jr
Edward Brill
Kenneth I Brown
Shawn Brown
Jesse Allen Buchholz
Burton Campbell
Curtis Roger Carmack
Jason Forrest Carver
Gwana Chambers
Alvin Chartier
Joshua Yulmae Christian
Angelina Nkechi Chukwuocha
Amanda Blair Combass
Stephen Aaron Covert
Carolyn Dadzie
Stuart M Dame
Charlene Evelyn Davidson
Benjamin Davis
Christopher Deal
Myrna Chris Stoddard Deas
Susan DeVilbiss
Terry N. Doyle
Megan Jean Earl
Frank Brandon Ehbrecht IV
Benjamin C Everly
Dustan Farr
Kevin M Felton
Ursula Nobulali Fikelepi
Timothy Fipps
Maria A Fisher
Jeremy W Fitzhugh
Keith Allen Fitzpatrick
Beryl Forjoe
Eva Christina Gantt
Kim Gatewood
Gloria Gillison
Lavern Dion Glasco
Roger Dale Goodman
Nicolas Halac
Robert C Handley
Alexx Anthony Hebert
Johnny Latae Henderson
Reginald Bernard Hill
Keia Holt
Essex Moore III
Omar Jackson
Tracye Jasper
Jay Joseph Jenkins
Daniel Jones
Jeffrey Jones
Benjamin J King
Kevin Michael Knudson
James Paul Kreager
Esther Isolde Krenz-Muller
Mark Lawrence
Robert Litzenberger
Stephen Ludeman
Andrew Mines
Damon Mitchell
Maggie Mitchell
David Morreale
Rosalind Cornelia Morris
Llewyn Murphy
Dan F Nelson III
Martin Chijioke Nwosu
Mark Olive
Christopher Parker
Angela Pelzer
Christopher Micah Peyton
Maggie Pierce
John Pollock
Brandon Pope
Joseph Lee Prewitt
Carlton Lovette Raulerson
Rebecca Rice
Joseph Austin Riddle
Guillermo Rivera
Richard Daniel Robichaud
Brenda Marie Robinson-Burns
Scott Roguska
Olivia G Sanford
Terrence Michael Scott
Cynthia Sears
Frank Seawright
L'tasha Shields
Carla Singleton
Kyle Sorrow
Candace M Spicer
Luke Taylor
Philip Taylor
Yarina Taylor
Ashley Nicole Teal
Grace E Ukaegbu
Sarah Joy Watkins

Daniel Watson

Daniel Welsh

Myeshia Necole Whitehead

Raymond Wiggins

DaKayla J Williams

Kahlila Wilson

Thomas Patrick Wise

Shirley Workman

Victoria Youell

Vincent Austin Yurt

Beth Zambarano

Catharine Zurick

MASTER OF THEOLOGY
With Thesis Titles

Russell W Scott II
Renewing the Contemporary Conception of Law in Nature

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
With Dissertation Titles

Terri Louise Bell
An Applied Comprehensive Strategy of Spiritual Praxis for Preparing Pastoral Leaders for Ministry

Markeith Brisco
Developing a Seminar to Teach, Train, and Empower Ecclesiastical Leaders to Embrace Kingdom Leadership Principles

Matt Cutler
Increasing Awareness and Significance of Orphan Care to Chapel Rock Christian Church in Indianapolis, Indiana

Therese Howington
Identifying Key Components for Developing a Curriculum that Enhances Collaboration between Medical Interdisciplinary Teams and Chaplains in Upstate New York

Lionel Jackson
A Research-Based Curriculum to Encourage and Empower Pastors of Small Churches in the Alexandria/Thibodaux District of Louisiana

Peter Kemmer
A Contextualized Curricular Research Project for Community Leaders to Facilitate Christ-Empowered Transformation in the Vale Region of Schenectady, NY

Luis Antonio Ortiz
A Faith-Based Curriculum to Resolve Conflict Resulting from Racial Diversity for Clergy in the United Methodist Church in Urban Atlanta, Georgia

Jason J. Shaw
Re-engaging the Home Front: A Strategy for Evangelical Church Alliance-Endorsed Navy Chaplains Transitioning to Civilian Ministry Using a Video-Based Reflective Guide

Brian Tracy
Training Confident Disciple-Makers at Evangel Assembly to Facilitate the Multiplication of Disciples

Karrianna Turner
A Curriculum Design to Help Ministry Leaders Understand the Implications of Rest As a Means to Mitigate Burnout at New Birth Church in Atlanta, Georgia

Angeleen Walker
Membership Retention through Discipleship Training at Rock of Ages Missionary Baptist Church, Hephzibah, Georgia

Mark Phillip Williams
Developing a Church-Based Curriculum Designed to Foster Understanding And Appreciation of Messianic Judaism by Christian Ministry Leaders in the 'Michiana' Region of Northern Indiana and Southwestern Michigan

Aaron N. R. Wilson
An Ecumenical Program to Unite Churches in the Weedsport, New York Area to Overcome a Deficit of Adult Volunteers in Children's Christian Education

Mark DeWayne Wright
Discipling the City: A Microgroup Discipleship Process for Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Louisville, Kentucky

Benjamin Yeanay
A Model to Increase the Church Attendance and Involvement of Generation Z in Good Shepherd Baptist Church, Richmond, Virginia (VA)

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN RENEWAL THEOLOGY
With Dissertation Titles

William S. Banks

Melissa J. Davis
Worship as the Demonstration of Loving Allegiance: A Grounded Theology of Worship

George Curtiss Evans Jr
The Holy Spirit as Space for the Living

Evelyn Yvette Green
The Ordination of Women: The Persistence of Women in Restricted and Non-Restricted Denominations

Joel D Mattsson-Boze
Separation and Desire as the Didactic Structural Indicators in the Song of Songs

Carlene Alexander Robbins
Leveraging Spiritual Gifts for Societal Transformation

Michelle Leigh Smith
Recapturing John Wesley's Doctrine of Entire Sanctification: A Proposal for Wesleyan-Pentecostal for a Doctrine of Entire Sanctification for Today

Stephen William Wellman
A Sacramental Philosophy of Music: The Intersection between the Nature

and Structure of Western Music and Christian Theology

David Larry Young
Revelation, Reason, and Spirituality in Theological Method

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES
With Dissertation Titles

Lance Matthew Bacon
Restore Such a One: A Holistic Restorative Program for Ministers, Families, and Congregations Following a Pastor's Moral Failure

David Frederick Duncombe
Shaping a Christian Worldview: Toward a Holistic Definition that Reflects Human Experience

Carswell Adolph Leonard
The Pastoral Circle as a Model for Trinitarian-Sourced Work by Churches Toward Justice in the World

Andrew Nicholas Snyder
With God's Help I Shall Become Myself: Kierkegaard's Psychological Narrative of Anxiety, Despair, and the Leap of Faith

Tribute to Dr. Michael Palmer



Regent University mourns the loss of Michael Palmer, Ph. D., who served students and staff faithfully as a multi-subject faculty member and former dean in the School of Divinity.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15, ESV).

Dr. Palmer was a native of Missoula, Montana. He earned a B.A. and M.A. in Philosophy in 1976 and 1977, respectively, from the University of Montana. He studied as a Visiting Research Fellow at Cornell University in 1980 and graduated from Marquette University in 1984, earning a Ph.D. in Philosophy.

Dr. Palmer served at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, as Professor of Philosophy from 1985 to 2006; Theology Department Chair from 1991 to 2001; and Director of Project Envision from 2002 to 2006. In 2006 he became Dean of the Regent University School of Divinity, serving until 2013. He continued his academic career as a Professor, General Education, Regent University College of Arts and Sciences, teaching courses in Philosophy, Ethics, and related subjects until the time of his passing.

Dr. Palmer's impact was not limited to students, but profoundly impacted many faculty he mentored in his years as Dean in the School of Divinity. Mara Crabtree observes: "Dr. Palmer was very clear about his priorities and goals in life. He emphasized the truth contained in the Westminster Shorter Catechism: "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever." His understanding of vocation was to faithfully live this truth in his teaching, research, writing, mentoring, and in all his life." Likewise, Diane Chandler remembers the things that made Dr. Palmer's impact so great in the lives of faculty who served with him: If lives could be measured as tall trees, Michael's was one of the tallest. Intellectually sharp, humble, deferential, honoring, empowering, an engaged listener without being controlling, genuine, quick-witted, and without artifice—Michael was a scholar, writer, and teacher, par excellence. But more importantly, he was a cherished friend." As Kevin Spawn observes: "Each conversation with Michael was a blessing. He also spoke volumes through his acts of loving service to his family and friends."

Dr. Joseph Umidi, Executive Vice President of Student Services at Regent gets right to the heart of why Dr. Palmer could have such an impact on the lives of students and faculty: "As a lifelong learner and a leader with a passion for listening to the hearts of students and faculty, Dr. Palmer extended the mission and heart of Regent School of Divinity across multiple denominational, ethnic, and cultural boundaries with wisdom and love." Regent University thanks God for the life and legacy of Dr. Michael Palmer.

Tribute to Dr. John Ruthven



Dr. Jon Mark Ruthven, Professor Emeritus, School Divinity, earned his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Religious Studies and Theology from Marquette University. Dr. Ruthven served as a professor in the School of Divinity from September 1986 to June 2005 and was known for his courses in developing the ability to write Biblical messages and to train in the process and art of preaching. Since 2005 he authored training programs for Biblical evangelism including works foundational to the training. He also served as a Doctor of Ministry Mentor, United Theological Seminary. Dr. Ruthven was a prolific writer of numerous articles and several books.

Professor Emeritus Ruthven appreciated his students, developing relationships with them as a teacher, and mentor, who prepared them for effective ministry. Faculty, staff, and students will always remember Dr. Ruthven's sense of humor which evidenced his joy in the Lord. He entered his final reward on April 11, 2022. Dr. Pamela Ruthven, his wife, proceeded Dr. Ruthven in death, and had also served as a professor in the Regent School of Psychology and Counseling. Jon Mark and Pamela Ruthven are survived by children Sara, Jana, and John Michael, and two grandchildren, Gabriel and Graham.

Faculty & Staff
School of Divinity

Scott Adams, D.Min., Ph.D.
Jeffrey Anderson, D.Min., Ph.D.
Larry Asplund, D.Min., Ed.D.
Cornelius Bekker, D. Litt. et Phil.
Patrick Bopp, D.Min.
Ewen Butler, Ph.D.
Diane Chandler, Ph.D.
Matthew Chandler, M.Div.
Mara Crabtree, D.Min.
James Flynn, D.Min.
Matthew Fretwell, D.Min.
Daniel Gilbert, Ph.D.
Leroy Gilbert, Ph.D.
Peter Gräbe, Doctor Divinitatis
Jordan Jones, Ph.D.
Mark Jumper, Ph.D.
Greg Kame, Ph.D.
Alemayehu Mekonnen, Ph.D.
Joshua Nangle, D.Min.
Lawrence Oseje, Ph.D.
Kevin Spawn, D.Phil.
J. Lyle Story, Ph.D.
Carrie Wood, Ph.D.

Emeritus Faculty

John Rea, Th.D.

J. Rodman Williams, Ph.D.

Jon Ruthven, Ph.D.

Vinson Synan, Ph.D.

Howard Foltz, D.Min.

Wie Lie (Willie) Tjiong, D.Min.

Graham Twelftree, Ph.D.

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 quadralus*, "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.

Special Thanks

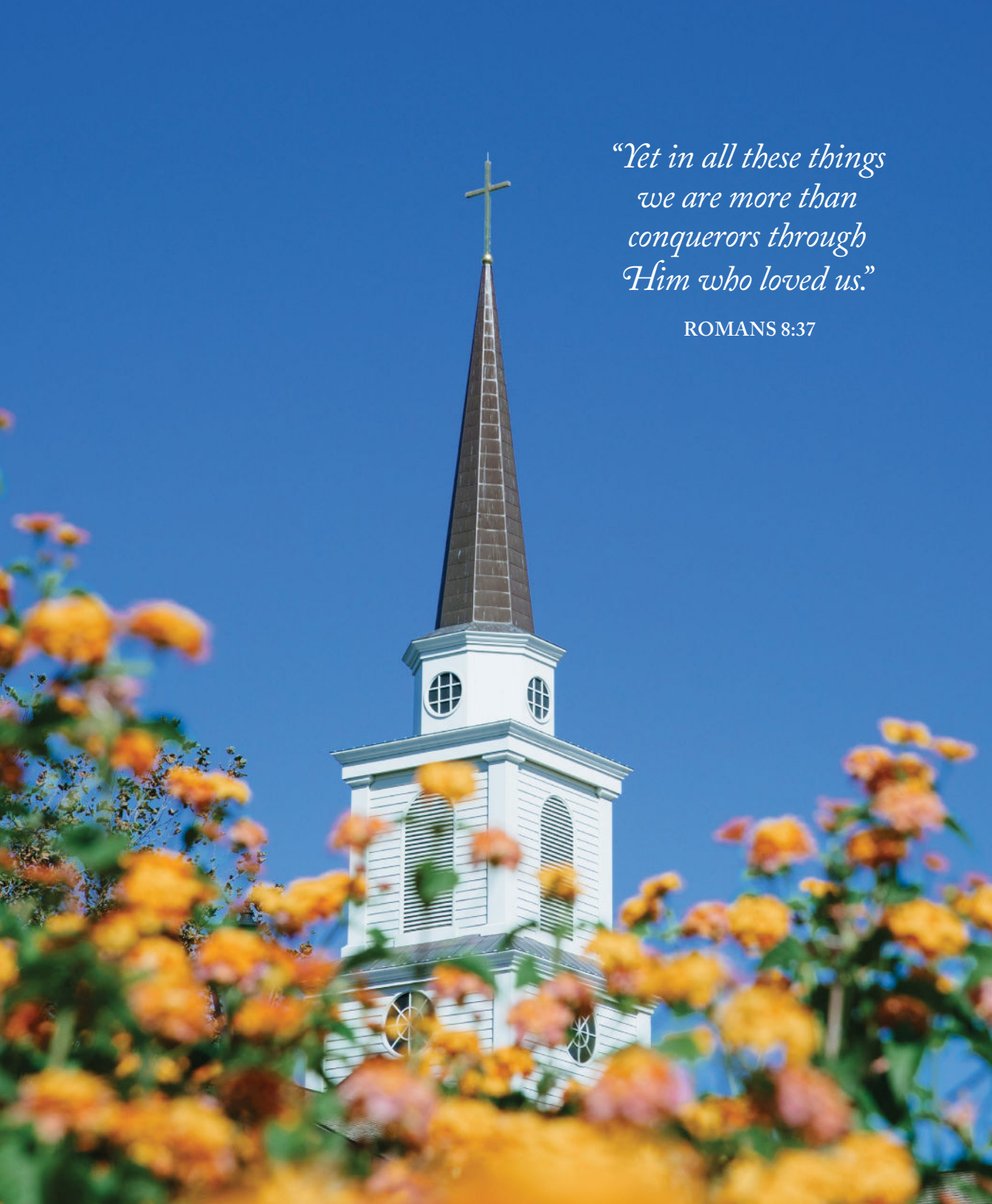
Special thanks to Regent University Founder, Chancellor, and CEO Dr. M. G. "Pat" Robertson who, through his obedience to Christ, birthed a university for God's glory, leads with vision, and models Christian leadership that truly changes the world.

Greetings From Alumni Relations

Welcome to the Regent University Alumni Association! Upon graduation you will join a community of over 31,000 alumni in all 50 states and across the world. As your Alumni Relations Team, we want to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments and invite you to stay in touch with us! Visit www.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 2023!

Sincerely,

Andrea Tatum
Your Alumni Relations Team


"Yet in all these things
we are more than
conquerors through
Him who loved us."
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.

REGENT UNIVERSITY

Christian Leadership to Change the World

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