

The Year of  
**COURAGE TO LEAD**

As our world continues to slide into self-serving relativism, as families lose their stability, and as Christians encounter more persecution in their minority status, the cry for courage to lead grows louder. As good men and women hesitate to lead at all levels because we are such terrible followers, the cry for courage to lead continues. As church leaders avoid conflict, and good leaders resign and abdicate leadership to the obstinate, the cry for courage grows louder. As leaders at all levels seem to lack the will or strength to do what is right when unpopular or unusual, models of courageous leaders become more difficult to find.

Paul set the bar high in church leadership as a preacher, teacher, church planter and apostle. He confronted some of the toughest issues any church could face, concluding in his first letter to the church at Corinth the admonition to "be men of courage" (1 Corinthians 16:13).

The courage to lead starts within our own souls. The spiritual pilgrimage calls for courage to assess our own sinful nature and trust our souls to the Lord. The call to discipleship demands that we first follow before being qualified to lead God's people. Leadership is about more than who makes the final decisions; it requires foremost spiritual influence and service (Mark 10:43-44). Thus, God called Moses "my servant," not "my leader."

Our goal this year has been to challenge one another to respond to God's call to serve with greater courage as we seek to become effective spiritual influences. This year's graduates all demonstrate, in their own unique ways, courage and leadership.



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**GRADUATE SCHOOL of RELIGION**  
*Transforming Leaders*

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HARDING UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

**FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL  
COMMENCEMENT**



**May 5, 2007**

Celebrating the Year of  
*Courage to Lead*

## Program

**DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM**  
**SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007 • 10:00 A.M.**



Processional: "Let Every Heart Rejoice and Sing" ..... Henry S. Washburn  
Assembly led by Leon Sanderson

Invocation ..... Larry Arick  
Director of Advancement

Alma Mater ..... Kinder, Flatt, and Sanderson

Message from Board of Trustees ..... Dr. Harold Redd  
Minister, Midtown Church of Christ

Introduction of Speaker ..... Dr. David B. Burks  
President, Harding University

Address ..... The Honorable A C Wharton, Jr.  
Shelby County Mayor

Recommendation of Graduates ..... Dr. Evertt W. Huffard  
Vice President/Dean

Conferring of Degrees ..... Dr. David B. Burks

Special Presentation ..... Dr. David B. Burks

Presentation of Awards ..... Dr. Evertt W. Huffard  
Dr. Steve McLeod, Registrar

Ministry of Study Award ..... James Wood  
President, Student Association

Message from Faculty ..... Dr. Evertt W. Huffard and  
Dr. Bill Flatt, Dean Emeritus

Hymn: "Be With Me, Lord" ..... T. O. Chisholm/L. O. Sanderson

Benediction ..... Jonathan Partlow

Recessional: "Instruments of Your Peace" ..... Kirk and Deby Dearman

## Graduates

### MASTER OF ARTS

Paul Birston	William J. Nagel
JoEtta Hyne Deaton	Andrew David Phillips
John M. Jones	Scot A. Poirier
Thaddeus S. Martin	Christopher Andrew Shrock
William Kent McClelland	



### MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Jonathan Patrick Grizzle	John David Hawkins
Amy Elizabeth Hagedorn	Christopher E. Straw



### MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Mary Robyn Butterfield	Erma Lee Simpson
Jeffrey Ted Cline	Kristen Denise Thomas
Luke DeLaVergne	Mike L. Tinker
Sarah SueAnn Graves	Kenneth C. Winters, Jr.
Veronica Day Liggins	



### MASTER OF DIVINITY

Matthew C. Bogard	Joshua Daniel Israel
Kerry Rex Butts	Joshua Noel Pangburn
Daniel Paul Cherry	Howard Fredrick Vosburgh
Shawn Timothy Griffith	Max Jason Whaley
James Allen Hinton	



### DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Jonathan Andrew Partlow  
Leon B. Sanderson  
Augustine Tawiah