

The Year of
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Human beings are relational creatures.

Scripture teaches, and the early church consistently confirmed, that the one God of the Christian faith is also an eternal divine community of Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14). We, too, were created by God to live in community. Although the exact meaning of the “image of God” is vague in scripture, a number of contemporary scholars conclude that it at least affirms our capacity to relate well, and actually relating well, with God and other people. According to the Great Commandment, the Christian life is fundamentally one of loving God and loving others (Matt. 22:34-40). While sin disrupts our community with God and others, one of the primary New Testament images of salvation is reconciliation (Eph. 2:14-18).

To call the church a community would be redundant, as the Greek term *ekklesia* means “assembly” or “gathering.” Dan Kimball’s popular book says about emerging generations: *They Like Jesus but Not the Church*. Such a stance is not an option for the Christian. The church is a community of worship, mission and spiritual formation where we both shape others and are shaped by others in subtle, yet profound, ways. The Christian who sets out alone will soon wither in faith, while simultaneously depriving others of encouragement and an example of Christian discipleship.

Harding University Graduate School of Religion fulfills a unique role as a community of learning, ministerial training, and spiritual formation. We continually experience the power of community to strengthen faith and mold lives.

Dr. Mark E. Powell
Associate Professor of Theology

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GRADUATE SCHOOL *of* RELIGION
Transforming Leaders

1000 Cherry Road • Memphis, TN 38117
(901) 761-1350 • www.hugsr.edu

HARDING UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT



May 1, 2010

Celebrating the Year of
Christian Community

PROGRAM

DR. W. B. WEST, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2010 • 10:00 A.M.



Processional: "O Worship the King" Robert Grant
Led by Leon Sanderson, Assoc. Minister, Church of Christ at White Station

Invocation..... Dr. Richard Oster
Professor of New Testament

Alma Mater Kinder, Flatt, and Sanderson

Message from Board of Trustees Dr. Harold Redd

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

Address..... Dr. Bruce McLarty
Vice President, Harding University

Recommendation of Graduates Dr. Everett W. Huffard
Vice President/Dean, Harding University Graduate School of Religion

Conferring of Degrees..... Dr. Burks

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

Ministry of Study Award Preston Cottrell
Vice President, Student Association

Message from Faculty..... Dr. Richard Oster
Professor of New Testament

Hymn: "Heart of a Servant"..... Michael Puryear

Benediction Dr. Stephen Teel
Minister, Hendersonville (NC) Church of Christ

Recessional: "Prince of Peace! Control My Will" Mary A.S. Barber

2010 GRADUATES

MASTER OF ARTS

Preston W. Cottrell
Charles R. Hale, Jr.
Kevin Lee Johnson
L. John McMillan



MASTER OF ARTS IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

James P. Teigen
R. Mark Wilson



MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING

Sean Michael Gearson
Glenda D. Murray
Robert Jackson Stewart



MASTER OF DIVINITY

Brian Alonzo Ayers
Caleb Andrew Borchers
Christopher W. Buxton
Jerrard A. Davis
Nicholas Ryan Faris
David John Ford
Joseph Ryan Kelly
Darin Scott Little
Jacob Michael Parnell
Carl A. Williamson



DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Michael Todd Flowers
Timothy Christian Gunnells
Stephen E. Teel