

Update from President Surridge

With gratitude for all the ways you are contributing to a successful start for the fall semester, I offer some important updates regarding university communications and upcoming calendar opportunities.

University Strategic Planning

Thanks to all who joined Community Day and the recent campus input sessions focused on strategic planning. The comments and ideas contributed during those sessions helped shape the identification of primary themes and pillars of priority that will help to build our thriving future. Please join us for Fika in the Helwig Boardroom tomorrow, September 21 where our conversation will center on North Park's developing strategic plan. During tomorrow's Fika, and in the weeks that follow, Provost Carr will introduce our initial draft and engage in subsequent sessions to facilitate next steps in goal setting, metrics, and work plans.

Academic Convocation and Installation of Dean Dennis Edwards

All are invited and encouraged to attend the Academic Convocation on Monday morning, September 26 in Anderson Chapel at 10:30 am. This is a day to celebrate our outstanding faculty noting their professional advancement and achievement, along with the introduction of recent publications and scholarly work.

As part of the Academic Convocation this year we will celebrate the installation of Rev. Dr. Dennis Edwards, as Dean of North Park Theological Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations. Denominational leaders and trustees, along with members of the Edwards family will be with us to celebrate this important appointment and sacred call.

A reception in the lobby of Anderson Chapel will follow the Convocation.

Book in Common – Evening with the Author

As introduced at Gathering Day, Dominique Gilliard author of *Subversive Witness* will join us for his first campus engagement of the academic year on Thursday, September 29 at 5 pm in Isaacson Chapel. All are invited to join. Watch for a link for students, faculty, and staff to reserve a copy of Dominique's book.

Fall Enrollment

Following strong incoming enrollment results across the university, we are nearing the internal census date for North Park when final enrollment numbers are tabulated for the incoming class. We have good indicators to date and when final numbers and details on demographics are fully known, they will be included in a communication to the campus. Thank you for your support of all students!

Campus Communication

As part of a broader effort toward increased campus communication I will be posting campus updates—and the Senior Team will join me for campus information sessions—following regular

meetings of North Park's Board of Trustees, this year. Updates will post and information sessions will be held in the week following Board meetings in October, February, and May. Watch for specific dates and invitations as those times approach.

Open Office Hours

I will be hosting Open Office Hours during the week of October 3—as the first of multiple sessions this academic year. Watch for a link to reserve a time for conversation. I look forward to welcoming you.

Harvest Fikas

Please save the dates later this fall for Harvest Fikas at Hawkinson House during the afternoons of November 15 and 16. I will look forward to welcoming you to our home and enjoying a warm time of food and fellowship with colleagues as we give thanks for the community of North Park University.

May God Bless in your work and service,

Mary K. Surridge

President

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