



HENRY INSTITUTE

FOR THE STUDY OF CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

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Dear Friends of the Henry Institute:

Many of you have already heard the news about my role at the Henry Institute, but for those who haven't: I've accepted a new position at Calvin University as Associate Provost, where I'm spearheading several new initiatives to reach out to new learning communities. It's exciting work, but it does mean, alas, that I've had to step away from my position as Executive Director of the Henry Institute. It has been a high honor to lead an institute that bears Paul Henry's name and I'm deeply grateful for the experience.

I'm also thrilled that Calvin has chosen a new leader with a vision that's both refreshing and rooted. I'm pleased to officially announce Dr. Micah Watson's appointment as the new Executive Director of the Henry Institute. Like me, Micah is a son of the Central Valley of California, where he completed his undergraduate degree at U.C. Davis. He completed master's degrees from Baylor University and Princeton University and a doctorate in Politics from Princeton. Micah had already established himself as an important voice in Christian thinking about faith and public life when Calvin welcomed him as a political science professor and as the William Spoelhof Teacher-Scholar Chair in 2015. It wasn't long before he was speaking winsomely and wisely into Calvin's ongoing conversations about the hot-button issues of the day. He has also been active in the kind of work you'd want to expect from the director of the Henry Institute. He organized the Faith and Democracy in America conference in 2018; he's recently spearheaded the new Politics, Philosophy, and Economics degree at Calvin; and he's an exceptional scholar-teacher, as readers will discover by picking up his co-authored book, *C.S. Lewis on Politics and the Natural Law*, among other projects on Lewis, John Locke, evangelical natural law, politics and religion, and constitutional law. On a more personal note, I can attest to his strong presence in the paint on the basketball court (we *almost* crossed paths on the court in California back in the day), but I have not been able to verify his claim of expertise as a sled-run designer. Micah and his wife Julie and their five children, along with their pugnacious cats, make their home in Grand Rapids.

I want to acknowledge with high gratitude the work of Ellen Hekman, Henry's Program Coordinator, and others who have held things together through the past few months without a director. Now we have a team again. The Henry Institute has so much good work to do, and it's a great encouragement to know that Micah will lead the way.

Kevin R. den Dulk
Associate Provost
Calvin University