

# CONVOCATION

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CALVIN UNIVERSITY  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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THE TWENTY-EIGHTH OF AUGUST  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY



## **EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The mission of Calvin University is to equip students to think deeply, to act justly, and to live wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

Calvin’s educational framework is derived from that mission. It articulates a frame that ensures integrated, coherent, holistic programs and practices in which students learn and develop. The framework names university-wide goals that ground the institution’s curricular and co-curricular activities. It attempts to answer the question, “What are the enduring characteristics or qualities of thinking, doing, and being that mark a Calvin University graduate?”

# ORDER OF CEREMONY

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## **FACULTY GREETINGS**

Representatives from various departments provide greetings from across campus

## **WELCOME**

Cheryl Brandsen, PhD, provost

## **EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Brian Bolt, PhD, dean of education

Won Lee, PhD, professor of religion

Maria Rodriguez, PhD, professor of Spanish

Kevin den Dulk, PhD, associate provost for Calvin's global campus

## **OPENING SONG**

Rejoice in All Your Works

*Wendell Kimbrough*

## Rejoice in All Your Works



1 Ev - ery mouth that cries for food, ev - ery lung that yearns for breath,  
2 Ev - ery tree that thirsts for rain, ev - ery bird that seeks its nest,  
3 May the pon - d'rings of my heart and the song up - on my lips



ev - ery eye that search - es through the dark for light,  
ev - ery heart that waits in hope to be made glad,  
with the chor - us of cre - a - tion join in praise



all cre - a - tion looks to you, for its breath and for its food;  
all cre - a - tion looks to you, for its breath and for its food;  
to the God who made all things, to the Spir - it who sus - tains,



from the good - ness of your hand they're sat - is - fied.  
from the good - ness of your hand they're sat - is - fied.  
to the Son who o - ver all cre - a - tion reigns.



Oh re - joice in all your works, King of heav - en, King of earth! Ev - ery



crea - ture you have made de - clares your praise. We re - joice in all you've made, God of



all su - stain - ing grace; with the moun - tain, sky, and sea we sing your praise.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:23–24 NIV

Claire Murashima, student body president

## CONVOCATION ADDRESS

“Destination: Love and Good Deeds”

Michael Le Roy, PhD, president

## MATRICULATION CEREMONY

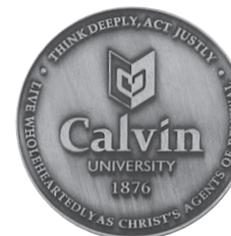
Sarah Visser, PhD, vice president for student life

Incoming students join a history of formal education stretching back to the training of scribes in Sumeria more than 5,500 years ago. And they are participating in a Calvin history that points back to 1876, the year the institution welcomed its first class of students. Today, students are invited to join more than 65,000 alumni in adding their names to Calvin’s rich history by signing a paper that will be bound in book form and placed in the university’s historical archives.

Students are also receiving a commemorative coin during the ceremony that will serve as the front bookend to their Calvin journey. We ask students to keep this coin and bring it with them to their graduation ceremony, where they will receive the other bookend: their diploma.

One side of the coin shows Calvin University’s official seal, based on an image of a hand and a heart used by Reformer John Calvin in the 1540s to seal his letters. In the 1920s, Calvin University adopted an iteration that included the motto: “My heart I offer to you Lord, promptly and sincerely.” The English and Latin versions of the seal are prominently featured in formal academic ceremonies and publications.

The other side of the coin displays Calvin University’s official logo, which features the wayfinder—a chevron derived from the pentagon shape in the university’s official seal. The four outermost corners form a square, paying homage to the institution’s foundational theology that every square inch belongs to God. Within the wayfinder is the reflective “c” symbol, standing for “Calvin” and forming the semblance of a heart, also tying into the heart-in-hand element in the institution’s seal. Language from the university’s mission statement surrounds the logo on the coin.



## PRAYER OF BLESSING

Mary Hulst, PhD, university pastor

*We will be praying for each other this afternoon. When you are being prayed for, please hold your hands in front of you as a gesture of reception.*

**For these new students,** Lord, we pray for courage. Bless them with a willingness to try new things, explore new subjects, and expand their worlds. Give them the freedom to fail, and then build up in them the resilience to try again.

**For the students' families and friends,** Lord, we ask that you turn their hearts away from worry and toward gratitude, away from regret and toward contentment, away from holding on and toward letting go. Give them the courage to leave this campus today knowing that their children are in the palm of your hand. We are grateful for how you have used parents and step-parents, relatives and friends to shape these students, and we pray that you give them wisdom as they continue to invest in these students' lives.

**For the returning students,** Lord, we pray that you empower them to be people of integrity: may the lives that they live and the choices that they make mark them as followers of Jesus Christ. As they choose areas of focus for their studies, guide them to places in which they can find you already at work.

**For the faculty and staff,** Lord, we pray for joy as they enter into a new academic year. May those who teach be empowered by your Holy Spirit to teach with boldness and compassion, with warmth and fairness, with justice and mercy. May those on our staff be satisfied with the work they have done this summer to prepare the campus for this unusual fall. We pray that all employees of Calvin University will be blessed with a longing to serve those around them wisely and well, with patience toward those with whom they work, and with joy that pervades their lives at work and at home.

And today, we especially pray **for all those who knew and loved Iris Jones** and are perplexed and grieved by her death. Surround and comfort them and all of us as we mourn her loss, and point us to the great truth of the resurrection of Jesus in which we find our hope. We pray all of this in his name. Amen.

**For all of us:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May he make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord let the light of his countenance shine upon you and give you peace. Amen!

## VIDEO BLESSING

Calvin alumni, faculty, staff, and students recorded a song of blessing for the Calvin community.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

The ceremonial costumes worn by faculty and staff at Convocation have their roots in the Middle Ages, when European scholars wore robes, hoods, and caps to stay warm in unheated classrooms. Universities eventually adopted them as official everyday classroom uniforms to discourage “excess in apparel.” As the custom spread across Europe and into other areas, style differences emerged to designate each scholar’s institution, level of education, and (in the United States) field of study.

Today, the costume is reserved for ceremonial occasions. For convocation, faculty and staff wear regalia to honor the significance of this milestone in students’ lives. Gown and hood styles tell us something about each wearer’s degree.

Though black is the traditional robe color and always appropriate for a doctoral gown, many professors wear the distinctive colors and styles of the universities that granted their degrees.

The longer the hood, the more advanced the degree. Master’s and doctor’s hoods have satin linings in the colors of the institution where the degree was earned. The velvet edging color represents the wearer’s discipline. Though blue signifies philosophy and is therefore appropriate for any PhD (doctor of philosophy), Universities in the United States also use these colors:

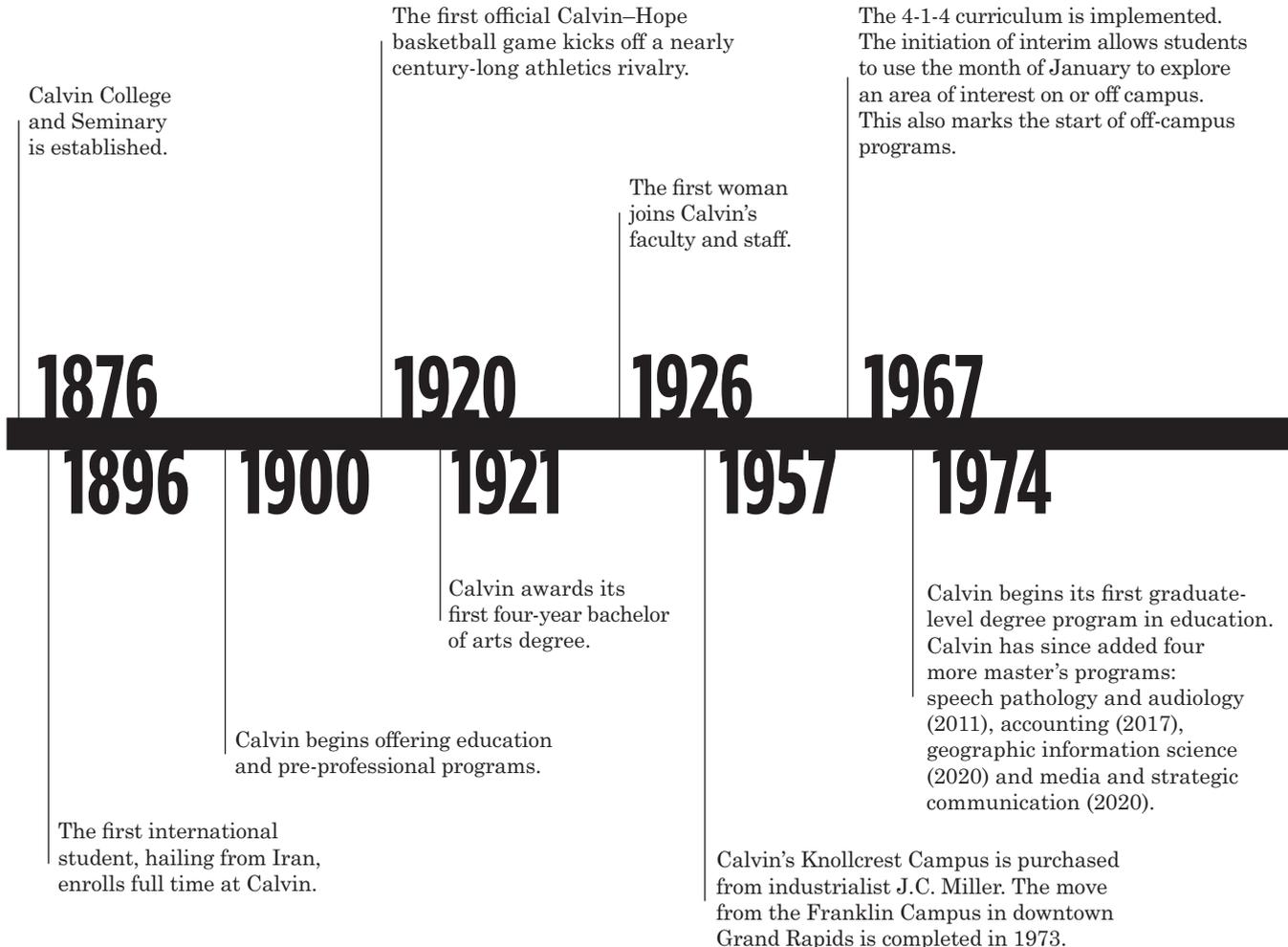
- White for arts and letters
- Light blue for education

- Drab (tan) for business
- Purple for law and political science
- Red for theology
- Gold for sciences
- Pink for music
- Crimson for communications
- Copper for economics
- Orange for engineering
- Brown for fine arts
- Apricot for nursing
- Green for physical education
- Salmon for public health

## LATIN SEAL

The Latin heart–in–hand seal became the official emblem of Calvin in 1933, but it emerged as early as 1910 in the college yearbook. However, the words *prompte et sincere* (promptly and sincerely) along with the image of an outstretched hand offering a heart surfaced four centuries earlier in the writings of the Reformer John Calvin. He used the image to seal his letters in the 1540s. The motto *prompte et sincere* appears on his portrait dated 1566. The adoption of the words *Cor meum tibi offero Domine prompte et sincere* (My heart I offer, Lord, promptly and sincerely) and image together stand as the insignia of the institution today, inspiring the Calvin community to practice the university’s mission of living wholeheartedly as Christ’s agents of renewal in the world.

# CALVIN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



*It started simply, as great things often do. But what began in 1876 as a school of ministry training with just seven white Dutch male students has emerged as a world-class Christian liberal arts university of 3,300 students representing many cultures, 66 countries, 46 U.S. states, and four Canadian provinces.*

Tenure awarded to an African American professor at Calvin for the first time.

Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary become distinct institutions.

Furthering its commitment to a flourishing multicultural Christian academic community, Calvin creates a cabinet-level position focused on diversity and inclusion.

In partnership with Calvin Theological Seminary and the Michigan Department of Corrections, Calvin receives accreditation for the Calvin Prison Initiative, becoming the first institution in the state to offer a full bachelor's degree to inmates.

**1981**

**1991**

**2013**

**2016**

**1988**

**2004**

**2012**

**2019**

Enrollment hits a record of 4,505 students.

Michael K. Le Roy is inaugurated as Calvin's 10th president.

Calvin College becomes Calvin University.

Embracing the biblical view of the kingdom of God, and in seeking to play a prophetic role in bearing witness to that kingdom, Calvin adopts *From Every Nation* — a document articulating a vision as well as goals and strategies for promoting diversity and inclusion.

The women's volleyball team claims Calvin's 11th NCAA Division III national championship.

