

OPENING CONVOCAATION

CALVIN UNIVERSITY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

THE TWENTY-SIXTH OF AUGUST
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

Be Thou My Vision

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art —
thou my best thought, by day or by night;
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.
- 4 High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Irish hymn, 8th c.; tr. Mary E. Byrne (1880–1931); vers. Eleanor H. Hull (1860–1935), P.D.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

VAN NOORD ARENA

PRELUDE

A selection of music performed by Calvin worship apprentices

PROCESSIONAL

Sing Praise to the Lord, You People of Grace

music by Swee Hong Lim

WELCOME

Wiebe Boer, PhD, president

Noah Toly, PhD, provost

OPENING SONG

Be Thou My Vision, sung by worship apprentices

EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Nain Miranda '23, student body president

Amber Warners, PhD, professor of kinesiology, volleyball coach

Sean Sword '24, student

Eric Washington, PhD, professor of history

MATRICULATION CEREMONY

Wiebe Boer, PhD, president

Noah Toly, PhD, provost

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 their students' lives.

For the returning students, Lord, we pray that you empower them to be people of integrity: may the words they sing in worship be lived out in the classroom, playing field, rehearsal room, and residence halls. May the lives that they live and the choices that they make mark them as followers of Jesus. As they choose areas of focus for their studies, guide them to areas 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 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.

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!

RECESSIONAL

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

POSTLUDE

The audience is requested to remain seated until the faculty and students have recessed.

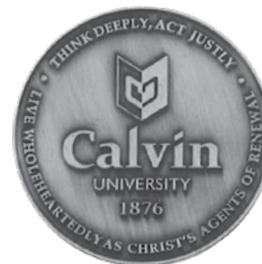
MATRICULATION CEREMONY

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. Students will receive the other bookend, their diploma, during their graduation ceremony in this same venue.

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.



HOSTS



WIEBE BOER

President

Wiebe Boer is the 12th president of Calvin University. He earned a doctorate and two master's degrees from Yale University and a bachelor's degree from Calvin, all in history. Boer, a 1997 alumnus, will officially be inaugurated as president of Calvin University on October 26, 2022.

Boer brings a unique combination and depth of experience working across the private and social sectors in four countries on two continents over the past two decades.

He carries a deep sense of nurturing communities of welcome and flourishing in all he does. He has served professionally in managing investments and philanthropy, with his work taking place globally from Mauritania to Atlanta, Georgia. Prior to being called as president of the university, he was living in Lagos, Nigeria for 12 years, and serving as CEO of All On, an energy investment fund of Shell Global.

Boer, who was raised in Nigeria as the son of CRC missionaries, holds citizenship in the Netherlands, Canada, and the United States.



NOAH TOLY

Provost

Noah Toly is the ninth provost or chief academic officer at Calvin University. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in interdisciplinary studies and Spanish from Wheaton College in 1999. He went on to earn a masters in theology from Wheaton College and both a masters and doctorate of philosophy degree in urban affairs and public policy from the University of Delaware.

Prior to coming to Calvin, Toly served for 15 years on the faculty of Wheaton College, where he held appointments as the executive director of the Center for Urban Engagement and professor of urban studies and politics & international relations. He has also held appointments as a lecturer at the Free University of Berlin's Center for Global Politics, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and the University of Chicago's Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, visiting scholar at Duke Divinity School, and associate fellow at the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture.

SPEAKERS



NAIN MIRANDA

Student body president

Nain Miranda is Calvin's 2022 student body president. Miranda, a senior from Managua, Nicaragua, is studying accounting. At Calvin, he has served in many roles: as dining hall student worker; financial analyst at Knight Investment Management; as a two-year resident assistant in Bolt–Heyns–Timmer; and as vice president of Student Senate. Outside of Calvin, Miranda serves as a worship leader at Madison Church: Franklin and is co-founder of ApexHash LLC, a fast-growing Bitcoin mining operation, and Nuffread.com, a textbook exchange website which seeks to lower the cost of college textbooks. Miranda is passionate about seeing others flourish and succeed. In his free time, he loves playing drums and playing soccer.



AMBER WARNERS

Professor of kinesiology, volleyball coach

Amber Warners is in her 21st year as the Knights' head women's volleyball coach. She is also associate athletics director and a professor of kinesiology. Under Warners, the Knights have won three national championships and had 13 campaigns of 30 wins or more. Her 609-95 career record as a head coach ranks her second among all active NCAA Division III head coaches in terms of winning percentage. She is also a four-time AVCA Division III National Coach of the Year. Warners has a PhD in psychology and sociology of sport from Michigan State University. She has worked with the U.S. Women's National Volleyball Team and top D1 programs on volleyball mentality training.

SPEAKERS



SEAN SWORD

Student

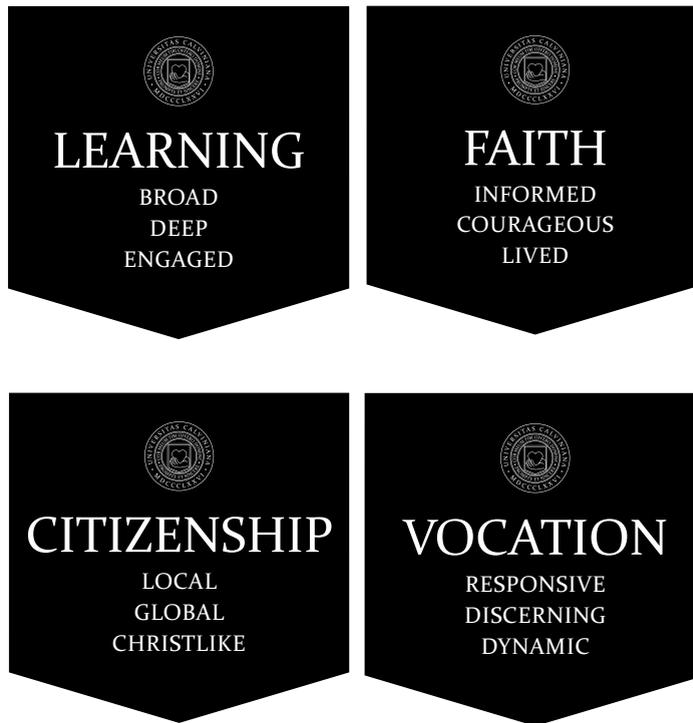
Sean Sword is entering his fourth year at Calvin University. He began his studies during his time at Handlon Correctional Facility in Ionia, Michigan, where the Calvin Prison Initiative (CPI) program was started in 2015. Sword was released from prison last August, and he will graduate in 2024 with a bachelor's degree in criminology. He is currently working for CPI to help returning citizens assimilate back into society. Sword is also a research assistant with the Returning Citizen Service, and he has been a student ambassador with TRIO, a federally funded program administered by Calvin's Center for Student Success. The program supports first-generation students, students from low-income families, and students with disabilities.



ERIC WASHINGTON

Professor of history

Eric Washington is in his 17th year as a professor of history at Calvin University. His research interests are African American missions to Africa, Slave Narratives, and African American Baptist history. Washington is also the director of the African & African Diaspora Studies Program and serves on the board of directors of Africa Network, a nonprofit consortium of liberal arts colleges committed to literacy about and concern for Africa in American higher education. Washington is beloved by students. In 2018, he was the graduating class's selection for Professor of the Year. Washington has a PhD in history, specializing in African history, from Michigan State University.



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?”

The four primary components of the educational framework are represented on the large banners hanging in the front of the arena.

CALVIN: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Calvin College and Seminary is established.

1876

1896

The first international student, hailing from Iran, enrolls full time at Calvin.

Calvin begins offering education and pre-professional programs.

1900

The first official Calvin–Hope basketball game kicks off a century-long athletics rivalry.

1920

Calvin awards its first four-year bachelor of arts degree.

1921

The first woman joins Calvin’s faculty and staff.

1926

1957

Calvin’s Knollcrest Campus is purchased from industrialist J.C. Miller. The move from the Franklin Campus in downtown Grand Rapids is completed in 1973.

Calvin begins offering off-campus programs. Each year, students explore areas of interest in dozens of countries around the world.

1967

Calvin begins its first graduate-level program in education. Today, Calvin offers eight master’s programs, with two more beginning within the next year.

1974

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, 56 countries, 49 U.S. states, and five Canadian provinces.

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

1981

Calvin College and Calvin Theological Seminary become distinct institutions.

1991

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

2013

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.

2016

Wiebe K. Boer becomes Calvin's 12th president

2022

1988

Enrollment hits a record of 4,505 students.

2004

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.

2012

Michael K. Le Roy is inaugurated as Calvin's 11th president.

2019

Calvin College becomes Calvin University.

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



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 thinking deeply, acting justly, and living wholeheartedly as Christ's agents of renewal in the world.

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

APPRECIATION

FACULTY MARSHALS

John Ross, MS, associate professor of kinesiology, recipient of the student-elected 2022 Professor of the Year Award

Katherine van Liere, PhD, professor of history, recipient of the 2022 Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching

FLAGS

The international flags on display during today's ceremony honors students at Calvin who hail from 56 countries around the world.

FLOWERS

Eastern Floral

MUSIC

Worship apprentices, led by Paul Ryan, worship pastor

CONVOCATION COMMITTEE

Alumni and Parent Engagement, Campus Involvement & Leadership, Communications and Marketing, Creative Dining Services, Event Services, Facilities, Information Technology, National Management, Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Student Life, Student Senate

