



2024 OPENING CONVOCATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

10:00 A.M.

M.L. HARRIS AUDITORIUM

PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY
2024 OPENING CONVOCATION SPEAKER

Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr



Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr. is celebrating 17 years as the Senior Pastor and Teacher of The Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia. Under his visionary leadership, the church has grown into "one church in multiple locations," now serving over 15,000 partners. He previously pastored Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church in Salem, Alabama, for three and a half years.

Dr. Goodman holds an undergraduate degree with honors from Wake Forest University, a Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary. His pursuit of excellence continued with a Master of Management in Organizational Leadership from Cambridge College, participation in the Clergy Scholars Program at Yale University, and an Executive Coaching Certification in Diversity from Howard University Business School. In 2023, Dr. Goodman earned a Ph.D. in Leadership from Anderson University, with research focused on the Black Church and leadership in times of crisis. That same year, he was selected as a Preaching Exemplar in the inaugural cohort of the Compelling Preaching Initiative, which fosters African American preaching through scholarship and mentorship.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Dr. Goodman is the author of four books, serves on various community boards, teaches as an adjunct professor, and contributes to numerous ministry publications on contemporary preaching and ministry methodologies.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Dr. Goodman is the author of four books. A proud member of Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternities, his inspiring, practical approach to preaching has made him a sought-after speaker, revivalist, and lecturer, sharing the Word of God to empower and uplift people around the world.

PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY 2024 OPENING CONVOCATION

PRESIDING | DR. SHANNON CLOWNEY JOHNSON

Vice President for Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer

PROCESSIONAL | WAR MARCH OF THE PRIESTS BY FELIX MENDELESSOHN

HYMN OF CELEBRATION | THE COLLEGE HYMN

GREETINGS | DR. SHANNON CLOWNEY JOHNSON

Vice President for Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer

SPECIAL REMARKS | DR. TIONNA JENKINS, '01

Chair, Philander Smith University Board of Trustees

CALL TO CELEBRATION | MS. TREASURE WILSON, '25

Chaplain, 2024-25 Student Government Association

LEADER

We gather as a community of faith and learning, ready to embark on the journey ahead. Today, we stand on the threshold of new opportunities, guided by the light of God's presence.

ALL

We come with hearts open to the possibilities that lie before us, trusting in the wisdom and grace of our Creator.

LEADER

God has been faithful in every season, bringing us through challenges and triumphs. Now, we look to the future with hope and expectation.

ALL

We move forward with courage, embracing the new things that God is doing in our midst.

LEADER

Let us remember that the God who began a good work in us will carry it to completion. With every step, we are led by the Spirit, moving toward the fulfillment of God's purpose.

ALL

We lift our voices in praise, confident that God's love and guidance will sustain us on this journey. Together, we move forward, united in faith and committed to excellence.

LEADER

As we step into this new chapter, let us carry with us the assurance that God's hand is upon us, leading us into a future filled with promise.

ALL

We worship with thankful hearts, ready to embrace the path God has set before us, trusting in His faithfulness to see us through.

OLD TESTAMENT READING | DEMARCUS MURPHY, '26

Mister Philander Smith University

ISAIAH 55:6-13 (NIV)

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.

NEW TESTAMENT READING | RAYYAN JOHNSON, '26

Miss Philander Smith University

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY 2024 OPENING CONVOCATION

INVOCATION | REV. C. E. MCADOO, '69

*Retired, District Superintendent
The United Methodist Church*

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER | REV. DR. MAURICE WATSON, '84

*Senior Pastor
Second Baptist Church, Little Rock*

SONG OF CELEBRATION | PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Mr. Vernon Harris, '03 - Director

CONVOCATION ADDRESS | THE REVEREND DR. CHARLES E. GOODMAN, JR.

*Senior Pastor/Teacher, The Historic Tabernacle Baptist Church
Augusta, Georgia*

STUDENT PLEDGE | MR. ALEX HARDY, '24

President, 2024-25 Student Government Association

LEADER

Philander Smith University is strongly committed to fostering a sense of social responsibility and nurturing an atmosphere for individuals who are academically ambitious, grounded as advocates for social justice, who want to intentionally change the world for the better.

STUDENTS

As responsible individuals, from initial matriculation through commencement, we pledge to be fully and personally responsible for our actions and the consequences caused by our actions.

LEADER

As active participants in the educational community, we must give our highest priority to academic opportunities and commitments; social diversions or extracurricular undertakings must not conflict with our ultimate purpose.

STUDENTS

As responsible members of this academic institution, we affirm the institutional values of academic honesty, academic excellence and access to education for all persons. We pledge to always strive for the best to fulfill the fundamental developmental and educational goals of Philander Smith University.

ALL

Today, we pledge and affirm the Holy Scriptures which proclaim that "with God, all things are possible." Therefore, we challenge ourselves by the Grace of God to learn always, to put away childish things, and to strive towards academic excellence through the power of the Holy Spirit.

FACULTY AND STAFF PLEDGE | DR. DANIEL EGBE

President, Faculty Senate

LEADER

As members of the faculty and staff of Philander Smith University, we realize that we have been given an awesome responsibility.

PEOPLE

We understand this responsibility, to guide these young men and women as they begin to realize their full potential. We freely accept this task, and will do it with a sense of purpose and passion.

LEADER

As the elders of this community, we are here to provide guidance and counsel, to mentor and advise.

PEOPLE

We will set high expectations for our students, and will be willing to celebrate their success, comfort their disappointments, and lovingly correct their mistakes.

LEADER

We must be role models as well, and must never forget that they watch our every move.

PEOPLE

James Baldwin's words ring true: "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

LEADER

So, as Philander Smith University continues to Move Philander Forward, we pledge to engage our students with the issues of the day, and empower them with the courage to go forth and intentionally change the world for the better.

PEOPLE

And we will live our lives in a manner worth replicating, so that our deeds will cause Philander Smith University to Move Forward.

PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY 2024 OPENING CONVOCATION

ALUMNI PLEDGE | REV. CLEO SMITH, '71

President, Greater Little Rock Alumni Chapter

LEADER

Alumni of Philander Smith University! We too, have a role in Moving Philander Forward!

PEOPLE

As proud Alumni, we promise unbroken allegiance to Philander Smith University in appreciation for the scholarship and development afforded to us as Philanderians.

LEADER

As a product of the institution, we know, too well, the strengths and challenges, of institutions of higher learning.

PEOPLE

Therefore, we will strive to be alumni who, by devotion to our Alma Mater, pave the way for others just as those before us. We will uphold the mission and be examples of those who are academically accomplished, advocates for social justice, and who are changing the world for the better.

CLOSING REMARKS | DR. MAURICE D. GIPSON

Interim President & CEO, Philander Smith University

CLOSING SONG | ALMA MATER

BENEDICTION | REV. RONNIE MILLER-YOW

University Chaplain & Dean for Religious Life and Campus Culture

RECESSIONAL | PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Mr. Vernon Harris, '03 - Director





PHILANDER SMITH UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE HYMN

Philander Smith, Oh how we love thy name.
Your rich tradition brought to you much fame.
Through years of service you have grown to be:
A place of wisdom, love, and humility.

Philander Smith, when we are far away,
From your great teachings we will never stray

You've giv'n a gift none other could ever give:
A wholesome and abundant life to live.

Philander Smith, your high ideals we'll keep:
A Christian heart, and love for truth we'll seek:
We'll know the Truth and it shall make us free;
Thy fruits shall grow through all eternity.

ALMA MATER

Dear Alma Mater, tried and true,
We'll win respect and love for you,
We pledge our hearts to you each day,
To do our best, at work, at play.
Dear P.S.C., when from your fold,
We'll lift the dear old Green and Gold.
O'er Alma Mater vigil keep,

Her high ideals we'll strive to meet.
When college days are at an end,
Our hearts will ever toward you bend.
With loyalty, we'll always be,
A part of you, Dear P.S.C.

(Written in 1968 by Dr. Carl Gordon Harris, '52)

THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE CABINET

DR. MAURICE D. GIPSON
INTERIM PRESIDENT & CEO

Dr. Shannon Clowney Johnson
Vice President for Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Gregory A. Hudson
Vice President for Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

Mrs. LaTonya Hayes
Interim Chief Financial Officer
Vice President for Sponsored Programs/Title III Director

Dr. Kaleybra Mitchell
Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Mr. Nicholas Tea
Chief Information Officer

Rev. Ronnie Miller-Yow
University Chaplain/Dean for Religious Life & Campus Culture

Mrs. Anita Hatley
Senior Executive Assistant to the President

Mr. Fred Hurt, '08
Principal Support Technician