NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 2012

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Our Past, Our Future

One of the storylines that stretches through the gospel accounts read during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, is the story of John, nicknamed "the Baptist." He was a man with a mission, called "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." With this theme ringing in my ears I've reflected over recent weeks on what it means at North Park to "prepare the way of the Lord"—to "prepare students for lives of significance and service." What is our part, what will be our part, in presenting the infant Savior to God's world in the year to come and in the many years that will follow? How do we work toward this end through our educational mission?

Here's what I'm thinking.

North Park was started as a dream by a small band of immigrants from Sweden gathered in Moses Hill, Nebraska during the summer of 1891. The school began that fall in a church basement in Minneapolis and moved a couple of years later to Illinois to what university historian Leland Carlson identified as a "sparsely settled community" far north of the city of Chicago. Carlson noted: "Old Main stood like a lone sentinel surveying the territory of onion fields, cabbage patches, and cornfields."

In the years that followed this community was radically changed as the city came to our neighborhood and wrapped its arms around us. The phenomenal growth of Chicago during the past hundred years mirrors the growth of cities worldwide. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, specifically in 2008, a monumental turning point, a seismic social shift, took place: for the first time in history a majority of the world's people now lived in cities. And this trajectory will continue into the foreseeable future: as noted in a recent Discovery Channel documentary *Earth:2050*, demographers expect that by 2050 over 80% of the world's population will be urban.

What does this have to do with how at North Park University we prepare the way of the Lord? Everything.

In the twenty-first century, if we are to remain faithful to our mission—"to prepare students for lives of significance and service" . . . "to prepare the way of the Lord"—we must do so in, and for, and among the people of the city. Though our institutional forefathers did not envision this when they gathered in Moses Hill nearly 125 years ago, we must envision it today for the future of North Park. Faithfulness to our mission, and faithfulness to our call from God, requires this.

(A footnote: 2050 seems like a long time away, likely beyond the course of my lifetime and perhaps yours as well. But know this: 2050 will be reached within the working lifetime of today's undergraduates. The world of 2050 is the world for which we must educate and prepare today's students.)

I often tell students that at North Park "Chicago is our classroom and all Chicagoans are our teachers." There is considerable truth to this phrase, though today it still may be more rhetoric than reality. This must continue to change and develop, just as the world's population has shifted in massive proportions. The educational reality at North Park must soon fully embrace and completely reflect our rhetoric. To fulfill our mission—our divine calling—we must fully embrace our place in the city and our presence among the people of the world.

The physical location of our campus, and the community of people from around the world who gather in these neighborhoods, defines our institutional vocation, our divine calling, our holy obligation. In 2050, heeding the call of John the Baptist—to "prepare the way of the Lord"—will mean nothing less than this. He prepared the way of the Lord in the wilderness around the Jordan; we must prepare students for lives of significance and service in the city.

In a single sentence, here's what I'm pointing to: <u>The future of God's kingdom will be found in the city—because this is where most of the people of the world will be living</u>.

North Park University is strategically located and positioned to be God's witness in and for the people of the cities of this nation and the world. In this place we (the people of God) can reach more people from more cultures than ever before possible in the history of the world.

What a grand inheritance we claim.

What a great responsibility now rests on our shoulders.

A Critical Topic for the Board's Continued Consideration

Do you dream, as my colleagues and I dream, of a Board meeting in the near future when together we walk across the campus green, don construction helmets (we'll be a fine looking bunch!), and tour the construction-in-progress of our new building? Do you dream, as every member of our enrollment team dreams, of standing next to this construction site with a group of prospective students and their family members

encouraging them to enroll at North Park and take advantage of the great opportunities for learning which will flood from this new building? Do you dream, as members of our science faculty and co-curricular educators dream, of guiding student learning in new labs, new social settings, and new dining space in this new building?

Now I'm going to exaggerate: the Board has given me a single assignment for this year, a "to-do" list of only one item—to lead us to putting shovel in the ground for our new Science and Community Life Building. Now I'm not exaggerating: I'm working hard to check-off this item on my to-do list. And now I'm really not exaggerating: fortunately, completing this task isn't assigned to me alone.

As the Board meets, we have three areas to consider, with each area important to advancing our work on the new building.

First, we'll hear a report from the project's lead architect, Bill Ketcham of VOA Architects. Bill leads the design process. In this capacity he has worked in recent months with our faculty in the sciences and our co-curricular educators in select program units. He also has collaborated with consultants from HERA Associates to appropriately design science instruction spaces in this building. And he has sought input from the university's senior leadership team. As the schematic design phase nears completion we are prepared to give the Board a "tour" of the floor plans of the building. Bill will present this tour as part of our opening plenary session.

Second, design of the building requires implementation of early steps in the process of preparing for construction of the building. Carl Balsam leads this effort and will introduce a relationship we have entered with a team from Boldt Construction to serve as the "owner's rep" for the project. This group is now coordinating the work of representatives from multiple specialty fields and facilitating a process through which each specialty field appropriately informs the design process. This effort helps to promote good design, efficient planning and scheduling during the construction process, and cost containment at every step of the work. Additionally, the combined efforts of this team will assist us in very important ways during the next few months as we test and advance cost estimates for the project. Carl Balsam will introduce the work of our "owner's rep" more fully as part of the design "tour" for the Board.

Third, before construction is begun funding must be secured and a plan of finance must be completed. There's an important team involved in this work as well. Along with our campaign co-chairs, Mary Surridge leads our work in raising funds for this project. The team also includes major gifts officers, development office support staff, print and video design experts, and campaign consultants. Most importantly, the team includes many, many people across the country, including all members of our Board of Trustees, who have chosen to partner with us to support this project. This, of course, is only half the story. As funds are secured a plan of finance needs to be developed. How does the expected schedule of payment of pledges, the receipt of other funding, and the broader context of the University's finances combine to satisfy the requirements of a lending institution? This work is led by Carl Balsam and facilitated by external consultants and

experts who assist to prepare a plan of finance which will serve the university and secure both our financial well-being and the flow of funds to support construction of the new building. Our continuing work in these areas will be reviewed with the Advancement and Finance Committees.

At this juncture it is critical that these three components—funding, building design, and a plan of finance—be aligned. We'll describe our present status on this further as part of the plenary session. Our goal over the next few months is to sufficiently advance work in each of these areas to be prepared to present a recommendation to the Board in May to begin construction of the building in the immediate future.

I'm anticipating the day when we can put aside our dreams for the new science and community life building and instead actually be able to see the new building, under construction, as we walk on campus!

Recommendation of the Seminary Leadership Search Committee

When the Board gathers we will consider the decision of the Seminary Leadership Search Committee to recommend Dr. David K. Kersten for nomination by the Board of Trustees as the Dean of the Seminary.

Dr. Kersten is a graduate of North Park both as an undergraduate and seminarian and has served the Evangelical Covenant Church as senior pastor of three churches (in North Miami, Florida; Bellevue, Washington; and St. Paul, Minnesota). Presently, Dr. Kersten serves as the Executive Minister for the Department of Ordered Ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Additional information on the nominee is provided in materials provided for the Board meeting and also recently distributed electronically to all trustees.

Prior to the Board meeting Dr. Kersten will meet with the university's senior leadership team, the seminary faculty and staff, and seminary students. Additionally, Dr. Kersten will be introduced to and will visit with members of the Seminary Committee during its regularly scheduled meeting. Subsequent to this, Dr. Kersten will be introduced to and will address the full meeting of the Board on Saturday. Following this discussion, the recommendation of the search committee will be formally presented to the Board in our Executive Session. If the Board affirms the recommendation of the search committee Dr. Kersten's nomination will be presented to the Executive Board of the ECC in March and to the Annual Meeting of the ECC in June. Pending the successful completion of this appointment process we expect Dr. Kersten's service as Dean of the Seminary to begin on August 1, 2012.

I want to thank Mr. Paul Hawkinson who most recently chaired the search committee, and Mr. Scott Bolinder who served as chair during the previous year. In addition, all members of the search committee, in its two iterations, contributed in important ways to the search process. They gave careful attention to this task, brought the energy and

dedication this required, and have served both North Park and the ECC in a very helpful manner.

Additional Notes

- Enrollment for the Spring Semester has tracked in a pattern similar to the Fall Semester—strong in undergraduate enrollment and somewhat soft in graduate programs and the seminary. A summary enrollment statement is attached to this report, and further information will be presented in the meeting of the Student Recruitment and Retention Committee.

- Enrollment of International Students (and NPU students who study abroad) continues to be strong. Note these statistics:
    - 187 international students are enrolled in the spring semester. This includes:
        - 21 graduate students
        - 91 undergraduate students
        - 54 exchange students (here for one or two semesters)
        - 21 other students and scholars with various other visa status
    - International students new to NPU for the spring semester have come from Bolivia, China, Finland, India, Ireland, Korea, Norway, Portugal, Russia, and Sweden.
    - NPU students are also studying abroad this year in the following countries:
        - Argentina
        - Austria
        - Chile
        - Czech Republic
        - Ecuador
        - England
        - Finland
        - France
        - Israel
        - Latvia
        - Malta
        - Netherlands
        - Nicaragua
        - South Korea
        - Spain
        - Sweden
        - United Arab Emirates

    We are a global community!

- North Park has been well-represented at the ECC annual Mid-Winter Pastor's Conference. Among the highlights:
    - Scot McKnight led an extended workshop as part of the Covenant Youth Workers Connection program

- The NPU Gospel Choir performed at the Tuesday evening service
- NPU programs were featured in three display booths, for the university at large, the seminary, and the Vive program.
- A reception was held to promote the seminary's new Certificate in Urban Ministry, with Soong-Chan Rah speaking briefly.
- Two lunches were sponsored for prospective students for the seminary's program in spiritual direction, with over 50 people attending.
- A lunch was sponsored for pastors who are parents of high school students.
- A reception was held to recognize retiring faculty from the seminary.
- A seminary alumni event was sponsored by the NPU Office of Alumni Relations.
- A number of seminars and workshops were led by seminary and university faculty.
- On Monday evening at the conference's opening convocation we introduced David Kersten as the prospective nominee for Dean of the Seminary.

- As part of my affiliation with and service in the broader context of higher education I have been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. With offices in Washington, D.C., NAICU is one of the nation's leading "voices" for nonprofit higher education in America. With more than 1000 member institutions nationwide, NAICU brings attention to topics of national interest in higher education, with special attention to matters affecting student aid.

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing

On the Friday evening of our Board meeting we are shifting the dinner schedule from our usual pattern to provide trustees who wish to do so with the opportunity to attend a Hymn Fest that evening. This rather recently introduced program is rapidly becoming a tradition in the School of Music. This year's program will introduce expressions of Christian faith through hymns from around the world, and will feature performances of several NPU choirs and ensembles.

As we gather . . .

We eagerly anticipate the Board's coming together now in mid-winter. We have business to tend to, students, faculty, and staff to care for, and a wonderful institutional mission and identity to promote. Blessings to each of you as you travel to and from the campus; we look forward to visiting with you.

New Student Enrollment Summary
Spring Semester – Annual Census Data
IN PROCESS – 1/27/2012

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Undergraduate (traditional)								
First-Year	14	12	16	10	7	17	16	10
Transfer	45	57	92	59	54	67	78	73
Special		2						
Readmits	1							
Visiting			7	3	2	9		9
TOTAL	**60**	**71**	**115**	**72**	**63**	**93**	**99**	**92**
Undergraduate (non-traditional)								
College Bridge	9	2	5	1	1			
ESL	31	23	14	21	10	7	7	1
RN Completion	6	5	18	19	15	7	11	4
School of Adult Learning	30	58	39	38	26	41	44	53
Education Certification	5		14	8	6	9	2	
Special (Students at Large)	12	5						
TOTAL	**93**	**93**	**90**	**87**	**58**	**64**	**64**	**58**
Graduate								
SBNM	54	65	63	54	71	63	53	65
MS Nursing	22	10	24	27	24	30	23	17
Adult Nurse Practitioner	4	7	2		5		1	3
MA Education (all sites)	9	5	12	13	20	20	24	30
MA Community Development	6	7	3					
Master of Music		1	1					
TOTAL	**95**	**95**	**105**	**94**	**120**	**113**	**101**	**115**
Seminary								
Traditional	24	24	21	17	17	45	7	12
Credential							3	2
Non-Degree Seeking							20	9
TOTAL	**24**	**24**	**21**	**17**	**17**	**45**	**30**	**23**
GRAND TOTAL New Students	**304**	**283**	**331**	**270**	**258**	**315**	**294**	**288**
Interntnl Exchange (non-revenue)	32	24	16	20	26	28	30	36
NPTS Cross Registered		11	12	9	5	10	11	0

Headcount Report (Total Enrollment)
Spring Semester – Annual Census Data
IN PROCESS – 1/27/2012

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Undergraduate (traditional)								
Returning	1300	1450	1565	1633	1646	1603	1628	1699
New First-Year	14	12	16	10	7	17	18	10
New Transfer	45	57	92	59	54	67	78	73
New Visiting	1	2	7	8	7	14	5	9
Returning Visiting							8	7
TOTAL	**1360**	**1521**	**1682**	**1710**	**1714**	**1701**	**1735**	**1798**
Undergraduate (non-traditional)								
College Bridge	9	2	5	1	2	0	0	0
ESL	43	43	26	28	19	7	12	1
RN Completion	45	50	57	87	77	76	70	45
School of Adult Learning	217	231	218	209	222	225	242	245
Education Certification	38	29	87	58	49	47	37	16
Special (students-at-large)	15	8						
TOTAL	**367**	**363**	**363**	**342**	**369**	**355**	**361**	**307**
Graduate								
SBNM	263	312	331	351	350	353	371	365
MS Nursing	138	122	140	139	149	163	162	148
Adult Nurse Practitioner	14	14	13	17	25	16	10	16
MA Education (all sites)	107	107	132	134	162	162	143	149
MA Community Development	46	29	24	23	11	4	0	0
Master of Music	7	11	13	13	12	9	9	12
TOTAL	**575**	**595**	**653**	**677**	**709**	**707**	**695**	**690**
Seminary								
Traditional	414	273	245	238	219	293	205	190
Credential							7	10
Non-Degree Seeking							69	54
TOTAL	**414**	**273**	**245**	**238**	**219**	**293**	**281**	**254**
GRAND TOTAL Headcount	**2751**	**2752**	**2943**	**2967**	**3011**	**3056**	**3072**	**3049**
Interntnl Exchange (non-revenue)	35	24	10	22	34	28	37	46
NPTS Cross Registered		14	15	12	5	12	12	2