"In Thy Light Shall We See Light"

President
North Park University: An Introduction

North Park University (NPU) is a collaborative learning community on the Northwest Side of Chicago that fosters sincere, nurturing, and open dialogue. Professors are equally mentors to students and experts in their fields. Intimate class sizes and intentional meeting spaces encourage deep dialogue. Whether they’re studying theology or biology at this Christian, city-centered, intercultural university, both undergraduate and graduate students emerge equipped for the workforce and to lead lives of significance and service.

Founded in 1891, the origins of North Park University are rooted in 19th-century immigration from Sweden, faith traditions carried from the homeland, and the educational needs of its founding denomination, today’s diverse and growing Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). Old Main, the first building on campus, was completed in 1894 and housed the school’s five departments: Seminary, music, business, academy, and primary education.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10)

Speaking for his colleagues through the generations, North Park’s first president, David Nyvall, envisioned the school — its leaders, faculty, staff, and students — as a community of life and learning where “great intellects are warmed by great hearts, and great hearts are enlightened by great intellects.” For more than 125 years, North Park has lived out this persistent single mission, which speaks to the Pietist convictions of both early and present Covenanters that the conversation between head and heart is integral to personal and spiritual formation. North Park embraces the freedom, the humility, and the joyousness of faith active in love, all for God’s glory and neighbor’s good. The Christian character of the school is embodied in faithful people, sharing a common mission of experiential faith joined to intellectual development.
Today, North Park University serves nearly 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students from around the country and the world, with a particular emphasis on its urban context. Within a diverse, close-knit community, NPU offers a valuable education to students through more than 40 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate and continuing education. NPU’s colleges and schools include the College of Arts and Sciences; the School of Music, Art, and Theatre; the School of Business and Nonprofit Management; the School of Education; the School of Nursing and Health Sciences; the School of Professional Studies; and North Park Theological Seminary. There is no racial or ethnic majority in the school’s undergraduate population, a degree of diversity that recently was highlighted by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

NPU’s 38-acre campus on the North Branch of the Chicago River is widely regarded as an oasis within the city. The landscaping of its central core won an award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 2008, particularly for its horticultural design, which includes hundreds of trees and native Midwestern grasses that give color to the campus year-round. A highlight of recent construction is the LEED Gold-certified Johnson Center for Science and Community Life, which won an AIA Design Excellence Award in 2015 and anchors the northwest corner of the campus green. Portions of the Johnson Center’s exterior architecture were constructed to echo some of the campus’s historic structures, including Old Main.
Mission

The mission of North Park University, as the university of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is to prepare students for lives of significance and service through education in the liberal arts, professional studies, and theology.

Core Values

The University’s academic programs and learning environment are informed by its three institutional values:

**Christian** – nurturing faith, balancing commitment and freedom;

**City-centered** – engaging Chicago as a dynamic place of learning and service; and

**Intercultural** – embracing and valuing all people, celebrating the global cultural tapestry, and supporting the reconciling mandate of the Christian gospel.

Vision

North Park’s vision is to create a university of uncommon character and enduring excellence, where faith, learning, and service meet.
North Park University seeks to be recognized as the nation’s leading city-centered Christian university during the coming decade and beyond.

The University’s learning community is differentiated by adopting the city as both subject and place of learning as a foundation for academic excellence. Within this framework, the University educates students from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and prior academic experiences, practicing Christian hospitality with students of all faith traditions while remaining centered in the affirmations of the Covenant.

The University will be known through its graduates who are equipped in their respective careers to advance the vitality of the world’s people and their cities, prepared to cross cultures, and formed in Christian community for leadership and service in the church and the world.

A Distinctive Learning Community

Over North Park University’s rich 125-year history, students have experienced an education that:

- Is rooted in and committed to the Christian faith and its sacred text, the Bible.
- Engages Chicago as a dynamic context for learning and service.
- Embraces all people and celebrates the richness of cultural difference.
- Affirms learning in all its forms – in the classroom and beyond—as a gift, a joy, and a sacred obligation.
- Encourages dialogue as a means of learning where open inquiry, integrity, and civility guide our life together.
- Seeks to form and transform the whole student (intellectually, socially and spiritually) to his or her individual capacity.
- Values each student for who he or she is and will become.
NPU’s commitment to preparing students for lives of significance and service begins with the first class students take and continues through graduation. The academic program is built around the philosophy that as a university, there is a responsibility to help students grow in their learning to see how skills, knowledge, and values work together to help them make both a life and a living.

North Park is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and recognized by many other accreditation bodies for individual programs.

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**Catalyst 606**

“City as classroom” is more than a mantra at North Park University. It is also a programmatic innovation for both the curriculum and the co-curriculum. Catalyst 606, introduced for the 2017-2018 academic year, is an educational experience designed to interact with the City of Chicago (whose ZIP codes begin with those three digits).

The concept is simple: On Wednesday afternoons, no undergraduate classes are scheduled. Instead, each week, students in select courses take part in city-centered engagement “labs” that meet throughout the city. Other students may take part in Catalyst on Campus, a slate of programming for learning about the city, careers, and calling.

Another element is the Catalyst Semester, a “study abroad at home” program, in which communities of commuter and residential students take two or more Chicago-focused classes together, participate in a practicum experience at a Chicago community organization, and take advantage of at least eight of the Wednesday afternoon experiences.

In CRUX, a residential cohort program for interested first-year students, participants live together in an intercultural discipleship environment, immerse themselves in Chicago, and connect with Seminary student mentors while pursuing their course of study.

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“Test everything; hold fast what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:21)
College of Arts and Sciences

NPU’s largest college includes both the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Division of Sciences. The Division of Humanities and Social Sciences is home to degree programs in biblical and theological studies, communication arts, English, foreign languages, history, philosophy, politics and government, and sociology. In the Division of Sciences students pursue biology, biochemistry and chemistry, physics and engineering, mathematics, and psychology, with classes centered in the 101,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Johnson Center and its 30 technology-enhanced classrooms. The university’s pre-med, pre-dentistry, pre-pharmacy, and other pre-professional tracks align with majors in fields like biology, chemistry, and physics.

School of Business and Nonprofit Management

Undergraduate students in SBNM choose among majors in advertising, business and economics, or nonprofit management; the graduate school confers 5 master’s degrees and 18 graduate certificates and makes its courses available to students at North Park Theological Seminary. SBNM also is home to the nationally recognized Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management, which offers programs for professionals who work in, volunteer in, or are transitioning into the nonprofit sector. The Axelson Center’s annual symposium has drawn nonprofit executives, professionals, and funders from across the nation for the past 18 years.

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

North Park’s School of Nursing is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Undergraduate students complete 8 clinical rotations among our 16 partner hospitals throughout the Chicago area, and graduates are qualified to apply for the NCLEX-RN professional licensing examination. Graduate students can choose among three master’s degrees or pursue post-master’s certificates for nurse practitioners. Health science majors prepare for non-clinical careers in the health-care industry while also studying the business and management topics they need to be leaders in the field. NPU offers the only CAATE-accredited program in athletic training in Chicago, in addition to majors in exercise science and physical education.
School of Music, Art, and Theatre

North Park University has a rich history in arts education.

❖ Undergraduate art students have the opportunity to choose from three concentrations; curatorial studies, fine arts and graphic design. There is also a pre-professional track in art therapy.

❖ There are four choirs, an orchestra, a concert band, a jazz ensemble, various instrumental chamber ensembles, and an opera program. These groups perform individually and in collaboration, both on-campus and off-campus.

❖ North Park University’s theatre programs are actively engaged in the nationally prominent Chicago theater scene, while providing a place of study that will challenge student and audience to discover one’s passion for communicating from the stage. Theatre majors are actors, writers, directors, and technicians alike.

North Park Theological Seminary

North Park Theological Seminary is the denominational seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church and also serves students from any number of other denominational backgrounds.

With a headcount of over 300, the Seminary offers 7 master’s degrees and two doctoral programs. Students can choose to study full- or part-time, completing their courses in a traditional classroom setting on campus, online, or through an intensive hybrid option. The Seminary is accredited both by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada and by the Higher Learning Commission.

University Ministries

North Park is a university engaged with the vision of God. University Ministries provides creative, compelling, and accessible avenues of engagement for all to enter into the story of God. This is accomplished through relevant proclamation of the Word, safe and nurturing formational groups, strategic alliances and partnerships, and meaningful curricular and co-curricular opportunities to engage the world—locally, nationally, and globally.
The North Park University Vikings represent North Park in NCAA Division III competition as a member of the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. The Vikings have won 18 CCIW championships, as well as five Division III national titles in men’s basketball. Student-athletes at North Park are first and foremost students, and their coaches, athletic trainers, and professors are all dedicated to helping them succeed on the field and in the classroom.

North Park University (NPU) is seeking a visionary senior executive who will serve as its 10th president and lead the institution as it seeks to be recognized as the leading city-centered Christian university in the United States.

The president exercises strategic leadership for the University while ensuring that the spiritual, academic, fiscal, and operational effectiveness of NPU continues to rise, providing a first-class student experience while building on the institution’s core identity as a Christian, city-centered, intercultural university.

KEY PRIORITIES
The next president of North Park will be a galvanizing leader in the following areas:

❖ **Directional.** The president will ensure that NPU is fully positioned to thrive amid the emerging opportunities and challenges for a Christian university and its embedded theological seminary in a city-centered context.

❖ **Spiritual.** The president will foster the Christian identity and practice of NPU, integrating faith and learning.

❖ **Developmental.** The president will build relationships and alliances that lead to significant financial contributions to the university, working closely and actively with the advancement staff.

❖ **Image-building.** The president will be responsible for enhancing NPU’s reputation and recognition, emphasizing the quality of its students, programs, and outcomes in a way that
ensures that NPU enjoys the national credibility that its educational excellence has earned.

❖ **Connectional.** The president will inspire the campus and its constituents to coalesce around a unified direction and purpose, working collaboratively and acting decisively.

❖ **Institutional.** The president will build upon and expand the University’s strategic plan; develop, mentor, and retain an effective senior leadership team that empowers and develops the University’s faculty and staff; and nurture a deepened connection with the ECC.

❖ **Academic.** The president will ensure that students with a diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and prior academic experiences all find intellectual challenge, satisfaction, and attainment, and will support talented faculty in their research and teaching.

❖ **Experiential.** The president will ensure that the co-curricular life of the university is meaningful, vibrant, and varied, thus stimulating and satisfying the myriad interests of a diverse and talented student body.

❖ **Operational.** The president will ensure the strong performance of enrollment, financial, and other systems essential to the University’s ongoing health with a particular focus on driving revenue performance.

**DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS**

The next president of North Park will:

❖ Be a devoted follower of Christ whose personal faith gives rise to integrity, servant leadership, and respect for the breadth of the campus community.

❖ Have proven skills both in collaboration and in leadership, showing sound and decisive judgment when making decisions that impact a broad constituency.

❖ Be an influencer whose contagious enthusiasm will drive new initiatives appropriate for North Park and will expand the success of existing ones.

❖ Engage and engender confidence on the part of all the constituencies in the North Park community, including faculty, staff, and students.

❖ Focus on enrollment growth in all NPU schools (undergraduate, graduate, and seminary), drawing from the ECC’s wide base of potential students while continuing to attract students of many backgrounds and cultures locally, regionally, and nationally.

❖ Be gifted at raising the needed funds that support and equip NPU in fulfilling its mission.

❖ Be a strong advocate for ECC higher education throughout the denomination; for Christian higher education in broader contexts; and for city-centered higher education in general.
Provide leadership that equips the university’s marketing staff to tell the story of the University to audiences ranging from prospective students, their parents and guidance counselors, to the City of Chicago, the ECC, and the higher education community.

**DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

The ideal candidate will:

- Demonstrate a deep and evident faith in Jesus Christ and a love for the church as established by active, committed participation in a local congregation. Per Section 7.9 (d) (2) of the Bylaws of the ECC, only a member in good standing of an ECC member congregation shall be eligible for call to this position.
- Hold a terminal degree, or have substantial professional experience in lieu of this requirement.
- Have held leadership and administrative positions that require managing the complexity of multiple constituencies, such as those found in higher education.
- Possess well-developed speaking and presentation skills, with experience in displaying persuasion and influence in both formal and inspirational settings, coupled with the ability to present biblical insights in these venues in engaging ways.
- Demonstrate a willingness to participate fully in fundraising and advancement matters, and to travel as necessary to secure commitments from foundations and individual donors.
- Evidence a commitment to work closely with the Board of Trustees in advancing its strategic plan and in supporting its overall responsibility for governance; the ECC as NPU’s founder/owner; and faculty, staff, and students in ensuring that NPU fulfills its mission.
Process

The president is nominated by and reports to the Board of Trustees. The president serves upon the call of, and in cooperation with, the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), North Park’s founder/owner denomination. The selected candidate will be recommended by the Board of Trustees to the Executive Board of the ECC; upon its affirmation, the candidate will be presented to the Annual Meeting of the ECC for action at its meeting, June 2018.

Applications and Nominations

Applications and nominations will be accepted until a new president is appointed. However, for most favorable consideration, candidates should submit materials by November 27, 2017. Nominations, expressions of interest, and applications will be treated with complete confidentiality and should be submitted directly to NPUPresident@carterbaldwin.com. Inquiries and questions concerning this search may be directed to:

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