

THANK YOU DR. SPAULDING

President Spaulding Discusses Retirement

by Faith West

After 11 years of dedicated service as president of Mount Vernon Nazarene University, Dr. Henry W. Spaulding II announced that he intends to retire following the commencement ceremonies on May 6, 2023.

When asked about what led to this decision, Dr. Spaulding stated that his two recent bouts of sickness played a role in this choice. The first came in December when doctors discovered a platelet issue, and the second came in January when Dr. Spaulding fell ill with bacterial pneumonia. He explained that, over time, the infection built up between his ribcage and lungs, causing him to need surgery to remove the disease. Dr. Spaulding reported that the surgery was successful and insisted, “I’m feeling about as good as I’ve felt in years.”

Even though he believes it is time to step away from his role as president, Dr. Spaulding finds it difficult to say goodbye due to the wonderful people that make up the campus community. He stated, “I can’t imagine having done anything that’s been more painful for me than this.”

Despite his feelings on retiring, Dr. Spaulding expressed his confidence in interim president Scott Campbell to guide the university through this time of transition. Dr. Spaulding stated, “The transition period will be a time of keeping everything going that we’ve started, and it will also be a time for the trustees to gather and decide who they want to invite of the many people who will apply.”

Soon, MVNU will begin a nationwide search for a new president, which can take roughly 6 to 12 months. When asked about his thoughts on the timeline, Dr. Spaulding mentioned, “I would be very surprised if there is not somebody in place by the fall board meeting in November, if not the beginning of the school year.”



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