



71st

Commencement

Convocation

SATURDAY, THE FIRST OF MAY
TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE

SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN U N I V E R S I T Y

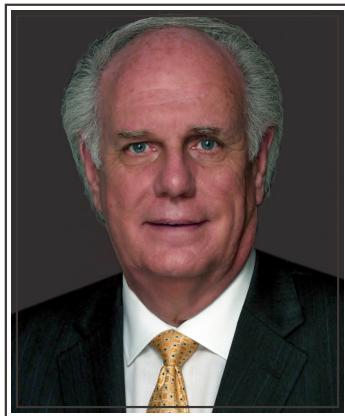
Scholarship • Spirit • Service

OUR MISSION

Southwestern Christian University is a Christ-centered liberal arts institution in the Wesleyan holiness, Pentecostal, charismatic tradition equipping students for a life of scholarship, spirit, and service; integrating faith, learning, and living; and empowering graduates to excel and to positively impact their world for Jesus Christ.



University President



Dr. Tom Murray

WELCOME TO SCU AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020 AND 2021

On behalf of the Southwestern Christian University family, I extend a sincere welcome to the degree candidates of 2020 and 2021, friends, and family.

CONGRATULATIONS is in order to our graduating classes. You are exceptional representatives of the university. I am honored to serve as the 13th

President of this great institution, and I am especially proud to have the distinct honor to celebrate the achievements of this class. You have persevered through unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, weathering an incredible amount of changes and uncertainty as a result. Without question the faculty and administration has been dedicated to your academic and personal success during your time with the university. We are all very proud of the hard work, dedication, and spirit you have shown during these past few semesters.

Southwestern Christian University is truly a special place. We are a community of individuals dedicated to Scholarship, Spirit, and Service. We are committed to Christian higher education, the heritage of serving others, and building the Kingdom of God. As a Christian liberal arts university, we seek to provide an academic environment shaped by excellence and rooted in a Christian worldview and the Word of God. We are excited that another class of servant-leaders will carry the vision of SCU to a world that so desperately needs their influence.

I believe that the graduates of Southwestern are unique in that, regardless of their chosen degree or vocation, all of them have the opportunity to enrich the lives of those around them. Not only do they impact their communities and literally change the world, but they do so with compassion, boldness, honesty, humility, spiritual awareness, and integrity.

I want to give thanks to the parents, spouses, children, and friends of our graduates for your support, understanding, and sacrifices that you endured to see this day finally arrive. Your contributions have not gone unnoticed.

On this wonderful day, I, along with the faculty are proud of you. To every member of the 2020 and 2021 graduation classes, Congratulations! May you always feel at home at SCU!

Dr. Tom L. Murray
President



SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN U N I V E R S I T Y

Scholarship • Spirit • Service

SEVENTY-FIRST COMMENCEMENT CONVOCATION
Saturday, the First of May, Two Thousand and Twenty-One

*Victory Church
4300 North MacArthur Boulevard
Warr Acres, OK 73122*

- 4** Commencement Program
- 6** Commencement Speaker
- 7** Chairman, Board of Trustees
Vice-President of Academic Affairs
- 8** Student Response
- 9** Class of 2020 and 2021 Degree Candidates
- 15** Distinctions
- 16** Academic Regalia and Mace
- 17** University Information
- 18** Board of Trustees



Commencement Program

Please silence your cell phones.

PRELUDE

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” arr. Mack Wilberg
“For the Beauty of the Earth” by John Rutter
“Great is the Lord Almighty” by Dennis Jernigan, arr. Daniel Smith
“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name” Words by Linda Lee Johnson, Music by Tom Fettke
University Chamber Singers

GRAND MARSHAL/MACE BEARER

Dr. John Martin, Faculty Senate President

PROCESSIONAL

“Pomp and Circumstance” by Sir Edward Elgar
Mrs. Rebecca Roman

Gentlemen, please remove caps for the National Anthem and Invocations.

NATIONAL ANTHEM Audience Stands

“The Star-Spangled Banner” - Tommi Jean Mejia
Words by Francis Scott Key, Music by John Stafford Smith
Mrs. Rebecca Roman

INVOCATION Audience Stands

Bishop A. D. Beacham, General Superintendent, International Pentecostal Holiness Church

DECLARATION Audience Stands

Dr. Tom Murray, University President

WELCOME AND RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Dr. Adrian Hinkle, Vice President of Academic Affairs

PRESIDENTIAL GREETING

Dr. Tom Murray, University President

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Thank God” by Aaron Moses, Chuck Butler, Dante Bowie, Jesse Cline & Maryann George
One Voice

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Academic Achievement Award	Dr. Adrian Hinkle
Transformational Leadership Award	Mr. Jesse Heath
Servant Award	President Tom Murray

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Blessing” by Chris Brown, Cody Carner, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick
One Voice

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Larry Acosta

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Dr. Adrian Hinkle, Vice President of Academic Affairs
Dr. Tom Murray, University President

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Bishop Randell Drake, Chairman of the Board

PRESIDENTIAL CHARGE

Dr. Tom Murray, University President

STUDENT RESPONSE

Mr. Juan Ramirez, Class of 2021 Degree Candidate

Gentlemen, please remove caps for the Benediction

BENEDICTION Audience Stands

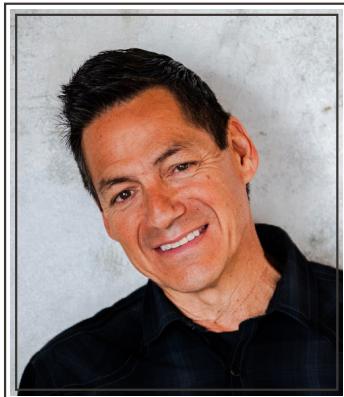
Bishop Tommy McGhee, Higher Education Liaison
International Pentecostal Holiness Church

RECESSATIONAL

Mrs. Rebecca Roman

Guests should remain seated until the conclusion of the Recessional.

Commencement Speaker



Dr. Larry Acosta

Dr. Acosta is the Founder of Urban Youth Workers Institute (UYWI) and Executive Director of City 2 City, a catalyst to Multiethnic Church Planting in the urban areas. He also is the Co-Founder of KIDWORKS along with his wife Jayme. Under Larry's leadership, UYWI has grown from a local, Southern California ministry, to a national organization operating in key U.S. cities with a combined network of over 20,000 emerging leaders. UYWI is recognized as one of the top urban leadership training

organizations in the United States. After 25 years as the Founder of UYWI, Dr. Acosta passed the leadership torch to one of his mentees.

In his new role as Executive Director of City 2 City he is continuing to mentor leaders with plans to launch 100 multiethnic, Gospel centered churches planted or re-planted throughout Southern California by 2026. His knowledge of the challenges that confront the youth of the 21st century, undoubtedly makes Dr. Acosta a significant voice in addressing urban youth and Kingdom builders across the United States.

Larry serves on the Board of Trustees for Azusa Pacific University. Dr. Acosta graduated from Biola University, and Talbot School of Theology. He completed his doctorate in Leadership Development at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

He is married to his lovely wife Jayme, and they have four young adult children--Brock, Karis, Malia and Diego.

Chairman, Board of Trustees



Bishop Randell O. Drake

Bishop Randell O. Drake is the Conference Superintendent of New Horizons Ministries (NHM) of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC). He has been an IPHC credentialed minister for over 42 years and is serving in his 5th term (19 years) as Conference Superintendent. Bishop Drake was selected as one of Jaycees' Outstanding Young Men of America and was a guest chaplain for the United States Senate (opening the Senate in prayer,) an honor afforded to only 24 guest chaplains each year.

Bishop Drake is a Shawnee High School graduate, has a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies and a Master's Degree in Church Growth and Revitalization from Southwestern Christian University. He has been a guest on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, has recorded a musical album, is author of the book, *"Just Sayin'"*, and has been a featured speaker at the IPHC National Pastors' Conference, numerous community Day of Prayer events, youth camps, baccalaureate services, and churches.

Bishop Drake and his wife, Michelle, have two sons, Taylor and Evan, two daughters-in-love Ashlie and Danielle, and three granddaughters Aubrielle, Aumerie and Auria.

Vice-President of Academic Affairs



Dr. Adrian E. Hinkle

Dr. Adrian E. Hinkle's career at Southwestern Christian University began in 2004 where she served as the first female to teach Theology at an IPHC higher education institution. Since her start, she served in progressive roles from faculty to Academic Dean before she was appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs in fall 2017. An alumna of SCU with a BS in Biblical Studies, Dr. Hinkle went on to earn a Master of Arts in Theology from Southern Nazarene University. She then completed additional graduate work through the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary before completing her Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Wales, Trinity St. David in 2014. Her research and teaching are focused on hermeneutics, active learning theory, construction of childhood, and the Hebrew Bible. She is an active member of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and the Society for Pentecostal Studies. She has publications with Wipf and Stock, several academic journal articles, and has presented papers for the Society for Pentecostal Studies, Society for Biblical Literature, Christian Adult Higher Education Association, and the Higher Learning Commission.

Student Response



Juan Ramirez

Juan Ramirez is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. He was born and raised by his parents Juan and Maria Ramirez in Arlington, TX. Juan entered Southwestern Christian University in the Fall of 2017.

Juan has accomplished much while he has attended SCU. He was a member of the Men's Soccer Program all four years as a goalkeeper, making notable performances. He is a two-time NCCAA National

Tournament Champion in 2017 and 2018. He is recognized with awards such as NCCAA Player of the Week and Student Athlete of the Week in 2020. In addition to soccer, Juan also participated in the Chapel Band as a vocalist and pianist. Outside of school, Juan's passions and hobbies include working out, playing soccer, singing, and playing the piano.

After graduation, he plans to become an exercise physiologist and fitness trainer that helps patients recover from chronic diseases and to help reach their body fitness goals. He also plans to become a music producer and songwriter to create his own music, which has been a lifetime goal since he first started playing music.

Class of 2020

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Master of Ministry

Rodney Ramson Sevier Sr.

Master of Arts

Global Christian Leadership

April Black
Chad Dennis
Hannah Glynn Hayes
Yair R. Herrera
James Michael Roberson
Courtney Elizabeth Traylor
Elaho Sha Vettickal

Bachelor of Arts

Biblical Studies

Kaitlyn LeeAnn Austin •
Jean Marc Devarier

English

JuLee Faith Amaris Welch

Intercultural Studies

Amanda Victoria Boves
Breanna Cline •
Summa Cum Laude
Adam Blake Hope
Caleb Michael Johnson
Abigail Lauryn Yates

Pastoral Ministry/Biblical Literature

Judith Sarai Gallegos

Music Worship Studies

Tommi Jean Mejia
Summa Cum Laude

Bachelor of

Business Administration

Business Administration

Marcelo Tomas Alvear
Matthew Johnson
Amanda R. Jones
Dawson Palmer Jones
Helen Barbara Macy
Magna Cum Laude
Austin Lane Rash
De'Joun Markeus Dewayne Sanders
Ashten Leigh Slemp
Robert Wayne Turner III
Cum Laude
Valentina Vogelsang Rosales
Cum Laude

Bachelor of Music

Performance

Obed Eli Salazar
Cum Laude
Joseph Taylor
Cum Laude

Bachelor of Professional Leadership

Professional Leadership

Miki Sue Baxter
Summa Cum Laude
Charity Faith Cain
Cum Laude
Camilla Fields
Cum Laude
Brooke Katherine Leingang

Class of 2020

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Bachelor of Science

Biblical Leadership

Nicole Denise Wagner
Summa Cum Laude

Business Administration

Michael Edgar Talbot
Cum Laude

Christian Leadership

Courtney Lynne Elmore
Selah Danielle Privett •
Magna Cum Laude

Elementary Education

Maria Fernanda Castro Velazquez
Ashley Renee Easlon
Cum Laude
Madison Gertrude James
Nathaly Vanessa Lopez
Magna Cum Laude

Human Services

Katherine Joy Anderson
Terri Lynn Grewell
Summa Cum Laude
Janet Gasu
Summa Cum Laude
Olivia Grace Block
Magna Cum Laude
JaVone Kyrell Knox
Jordan Patrick Taylor
Summa Cum Laude

Kinesiology

Ashley Nicole Bettis
Makayla Ann Buck
Callum George Gary Cockley
Victoria Nicole Garza
Nicholas Phillip Jackson
Kourtney Leigh Jones
Cum Laude
Madelyn Jane Lehr
Magna Cum Laude
Tanner Eric Martinez
McKenna Grace Morley
Summa Cum Laude
Veronica Nicole Trujillo

Liberal Studies

Katrina Maria Matthews
Summa Cum Laude

Physical Education, Health, and Safety

Brooke Nicole DeGraffenreid
Makenzie Justine Janz
Summa Cum Laude
William Tanner Thorpe
Summa Cum Laude
Kylee Jordan Vestal
Magna Cum Laude

Class of 2020

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Psychology

Dafnne Berenice Bautista Salas

Summa Cum Laude

Raquel Seleste Pachicano

Darian MacNeill Parsons

Summa Cum Laude

Rachel Naomi Schwartz

Cum Laude

Associate of Arts

Taylor Le Alford

Junior Rafael Calcano Reyes

Kalen Korey Davis

Jasmine Kiara Taplin

Sport Management

Jackson Taylor Davis

Kelvin Fabian

Magna Cum Laude

Artur S.L. Gomes

Ashlynn Marie Haylett

Magna Cum Laude

Cameron Lee Horsely

Darius Marshan Madkin

Gabriel Martinez

Summa Cum Laude

Cashlyn Kay Munroe

Summa Cum Laude

Franklin Daniel Ordonez

Zachary John Ramirez

Javier Verdu Sanchez

Rachel Renee Southerland

Andrew Clayton Stoll

Christian Cooper Was

Meghan J. Whitty

Magna Cum Laude

Honors (include on each degree candidate Page)

Circle Symbol=Theta Alpha Kappa

Square Symbol=Rotary

Class of 2021

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Master of Ministry

Kurtis Wayne Ivey
David Leroy Sidebottom
Tarina Sheena Simon

Master of Arts

Global Christian Leadership

Cayo Ramon Avelino Cavalcante
Stephen Vaughn Johnson
Kirill Kibisov

Theological Studies

Kristianne Melodi Sevilleja Aguinaldo
Grayson Saylor Hall
Rosemary C. Hudson
Javier Farias Vargas

Bachelor of Arts

English

Trey Armon Chaney

Music Worship Studies

Jasiel Areli Anaya
Magna Cum Laude

Pastoral Ministry/ Biblical Literature

Judah Christopher Whitman •
Magna Cum Laude

Philosophy

Kaleb Tanner Graham

Bachelor of Business Administration

Business Administration

Kyle Joshua Casey
Summa Cum Laude
Jamie Danielle Clarke
Magna Cum Laude
Ashly Lyn Davenport
Jaime Davis
Nacheline Dort
Dillan Drake
Alexis ReAnn Hammond ■
Summa Cum Laude

Chandler Jay Higgins
Cum Laude
Seth Robert Loyd
Salvador Martinez-Villegas ■
Nwachukwu David Ndukwe
Daniela Vanessa Ordonez Comas
Olide Orius
Darcie Peaslee
Juan Cruz Pebacini
Jose Maria Perozo
Chad Rieflin
Summa Cum Laude
David Jonathan Stinson
Addison Zayne Tway

Bachelor of Professional Leadership

Alicia Nicole Bryan-Turner
Terry H. James
Magna Cum Laude
Timothy Lewis
Zironya Dewinia Lewis

Class of 2021

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Bachelor of Science

Business Administration

Oben Ozan Atak
Thomas George Sedgwick
Wisdom Mathias Tokoli
Summa Cum Laude
William Hayden Woosley

Business Leadership

Reagan Marie Case
Cum Laude

Christian Leadership

Austin Craig Carruth •
Summa Cum Laude
Jaime Danielle Daniels
Magna Cum Laude
Linda LaShell Harris
John Koehler
Summa Cum Laude
Emery Brooke Komonce

Early Childhood Development Education

Aubrie Faith Sanders
Summa Cum Laude

Elementary Education

Chauntel Nikole Acosta
Cum Laude
Ashley Renee Easlon
Cum Laude
Hanna Marie Guzman
Ashlyn Bailey Riley
Summa Cum Laude
Hannah Gayle Wade
Summa Cum Laude

History Education

Clayton Atwood
Philicia Denise Dillingham
Colette Janine Morgan
Magna Cum Laude

Human Services

Laura Lee Abernathy
Summa Cum Laude
Blake Andrew Blackwell
Gisela M. Grant-Fuller
Cum Laude
Haley Ruth Jones
Summa Cum Laude
Philicia Denise Dillingham
Suzette Thomas

Kinesiology

Brittany Lynne Boles
Magna Cum Laude
Megan Marie DeShazo
Summa Cum Laude
Tristen Grant Dunn
Cum Laude
Caleb G. Fueshko
Shanda Reni Harrison
Magna Cum Laude
Lillian Faith Howell
Cum Laude
Haley Michelle Mashburn
Lindsey Nicole McCarthy
Cum Laude
Ryleigh Paige McMullen
Magna Cum Laude
Emmanuel Munoz

Class of 2021

DEGREE CANDIDATES

Kinesiology (continued)

Juan Daniel Ramirez

Magna Cum Laude

Shelby Scott Sherrill

Randy DeWayne Taylor Jr.

Cum Laude

Jabes Zariah Turner

Summa Cum Laude

Liberal Studies

De’Onté DeSean Menefee

Physical Education, Sport and Leisure

Leonard Vincent Trotta III

Psychology

Faith Hallel Castaneda

Kodye Leigh-Ann Engle

Summa Cum Laude

Daniela Mejia-Zapate

Magna Cum Laude

Beatriz Adriana Olivas

Psychology

Sofia Valeria Romero Del Valle

Cum Laude

Sport Management

Peter Bruno

Jackson Taylor Davis

Associate of Arts

James Earl Anderson

Robert Wade Cossey

Walton Will Sousa Dias Domingos

Jessica Nicole Maddera

Bobby Joe Willmon III

*Honors (include on each degree candidate
Page)*

Circle Symbol=Theta Alpha Kappa

Square Symbol=Rotary

DISCLAIMER: This list of degree candidates is not intended to be the official verification of graduation or academic honors. Only official transcripts, signed and sealed by the registrar, validate a conferred degree and/or honors earned. Students completing graduation requirements or submitting a graduation application after the announced deadline might not be included in this program. Names of degree candidates are listed by degree in alphabetical order and not in the order they are called during the Commencement ceremony.

NOTE: An official photographer from Candid Color Photography will be on site to photograph degree candidates as they are offered congratulations by the president on stage. Guests are welcome to take their own photographs; however, we ask that courtesy be shown so the view of the platform remains clear for the official photographer and other guests. Contact information regarding the photographer can be found on the SCU website.

Distinctions

ACADEMIC HONORS

Students graduating with Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude have met all bachelor degree requirements with cumulative grade point averages indicated below. Grade point averages for the most recently completed term have not been used in calculating honors indicated in this program. Official honors will be reflected on final transcripts and diploma.

- 3.50 through 3.69 GPA, Cum Laude meaning "With Honor"
- 3.70 through 3.89 GPA, Magna Cum Laude meaning "With Great Honor"
- 3.90 through 4.00 GPA, Summa Cum Laude meaning "With Highest Honor"

THETA ALPHA KAPPA

Theta Alpha Kappa is the only national honor society dedicated to recognizing academic excellence in students and in scholars in the fields of Religious Studies and Theology. Eligible students must have a minimum of 3.5 GPA in religious studies courses and a minimum 3.0 overall GPA. Students must also meet residency requirements, receive a nomination from a faculty member in the Christian Studies Department, and be in the top 35% of their class. Theta Alpha Kappa members are indicated in the degree candidates' list with • symbol.

ROTARY

The International Rotary members have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to act on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, members of the Rotaract club believe in the shared responsibility to act and develop innovative solutions for our world's most persistent issues. The Rotaract Officers are indicated in the degree candidates' list with the □ symbol. The International Rotary club recognizes the student officers at SCU by distinguishing them with blue and gold cords at the annual commencement ceremony.

Academic Regalia & Mace

The precise origins of the several parts of academic regalia still remain a matter of conjecture. However, the gowns and the hood were common at British universities before the 14th century. Academic regalia began to appear on campuses of the United States in the late 1890s. Since that time, regalia use has become standard for academic university functions.

The Cap. The mortarboard is flat and square and has become the universally accepted style for colleges and universities. The tam is a soft velvet cap and may be worn by those with a doctoral degree. The caps are black with a tassel. The standard tassel worn by the faculty is black, but those with doctoral degrees have the privilege of wearing gold tassels. Candidates for degrees at Southwestern Christian University have colored tassels which are black.

The Gown. The associate gown is gray with full sleeves and is worn closed. The black bachelor's gown has a long, pleated front with gathered fabric across the shoulders and back. The flowing sleeves are pointed at the fingertip and are knee length. The master's degree gown is worn closed, and the oblong sleeves, reaching well below the knees, are cut so that the forearm comes through a slit just above the elbow. The doctor's gown has broad, velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on full, round sleeves. This velvet trimming may be black or a color distinctive of the degree.

The Hood. The hood gives color and meaning to the academic costume. The silk lining of the hood reflects the official colors of the institution where the degree has been conferred. Southwestern Christian University's color is light blue. The hood is bordered with velvet of a specific width to designate the degree and a color to indicate the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

The Mace. The tradition of the academic mace originates during medieval times when a battle mace or royal scepter was carried at the head of a royal procession as symbol of power and often in protection of the king. In modern day, the tradition of the mace is embraced by universities around the world and symbolizes the authority and strength of the institution's academic ideals. Typically, when the academic mace is carried, it leads processions of formal academic and inaugural ceremonies where full regalia is worn.

At SCU, the honor and title of Academic Mace Carrier is bestowed upon the presiding Faculty Senate President who was elected by faculty colleagues at the end of the previous academic year. Today, the academic mace is being carried by Dr. John Martin. Dr. Martin has been a faculty member teaching since 2007.



University Information

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTHWESTERN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Southwestern Christian University was birthed in the fall of 1946 through the vision of the late Dr. R. O. Corvin, Rev. Oral Roberts, and others. Established first as Southwestern Bible College, its goals were to establish an educational institution and train people for leadership in the ministry. Located on the outskirts of Oklahoma City in the Abe Hale nightclub, the university grew to a bustling campus during the 1960s and 1970s.

In 1981, the university moved to its current location in Bethany, Oklahoma, and the name was changed to Southwestern College of Christian Ministries. On October 26, 2001 the school's name changed to Southwestern Christian University to more adequately define its vision: Southwestern relates to its heritage and past; Christian reflects its heart, purposes, and principles; and university focuses on the direction the school is heading and the progress made thus far. Throughout its 75-year history, Southwestern Christian University has remained dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering leaders to impact generations with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Propelled by the challenge to excel, the university builds on its hard-earned accomplishments. Attempting to relate the great intellectual traditions to the unchanging and authoritative gospel of Christ, the university is committed to integrating faith, learning, and living. Southwestern Christian University has embarked on a journey of qualitative and quantitative growth that will see a broadening and deepening of academic offerings.

The university continues to educate servant leaders with the unchanging message of Jesus Christ, leading them toward spiritual integrity, personal maturity, and sensitivity to the needs of an ever-changing world.

Board of Trustees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bishop Randell Drake, *Chairman*

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Bishop Thomas McGhee, *IPHC Liaison*

Rev. Neil Barlow

Dr. Tom Murray, *President*

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Mrs. Trisha Rex Carnes

Dr. Doug Beacham Jr. - *Ex Officio, General Superintendent*

International Pentecostal Holiness Church

