Lift every voice and Sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty; Let our rejoicing rise,
High as the listening skies, Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun let us march on,
Till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come, over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of our slaughtered,
Out of the gloomy past, till now we stand at last,
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus, far on the way,
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path we pray.
Lest our feet, stray from the places our God where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

Dear Old Morehouse

Dear old Morehouse, dear old Morehouse
We have pledged our lives to thee;
And we’ll ever, yea forever,
Give ourselves in loyalty.

True forever, true forever
To old Morehouse may we be;
So to bind each son the other
Into ties more brotherly.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit
Make us steadfast, honest, true
To old Morehouse and her ideals
And in all things that we do.

The One Hundred Twenty Seventh Annual Opening Convocation


Thursday, September 09, 2010
10:45 ante meridiem

Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
In The City of Atlanta
Dr. Robert Michael Franklin is the tenth president of Morehouse College, the nation's largest private, four-year liberal arts college for men.

Prior to Morehouse, Franklin was a Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics at Emory University, where he provided leadership for a university-wide initiative titled "Confronting the Human Condition and the Human Experience" and was a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at the law school.

He provides commentary for the National Public Radio (NPR) program, "All Things Considered," and weekly commentary for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Television.

Franklin graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Morehouse in 1975 with a degree in political science and religion. He continued his education at Harvard Divinity School, earning a master of divinity degree in Christian social ethics and pastoral care in 1978, and the University of Chicago, earning a doctorate in ethics and society, and religion and the social sciences in 1985. He also undertook international study at the University of Durham, UK, as a 1973 English Speaking Unification Scholar. His major fields of study include social ethics, psychology and African American religion. He is also the recipient of honorary degrees from Bethune Cookman University, Bates College, and Swarthmore College.

An insightful educator, Franklin has served on the faculties of the University of Chicago, Harvard Divinity School, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and at Emory University; graduate school of Theology, where he gained a national reputation as director of Black Church Studies.

He has also served as program officer in Human Rights and Social Justice at the Ford Foundation, and as an adviser to the foundation's president on future funding for religion and public life initiatives. Franklin also was invited by American film producer Jeffrey Katzenberg to prepare an online study guide for the congregational use of The Prince of Egypt, a DreamWorks film (1999).

In 1997, Franklin assumed the presidency of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), the graduate theological seminary of the Atlanta University Center consortium. He served as the Chautauqua Institution’s Theologian in Residence for the 2005 season.

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Active in a range of organizations, Franklin serves the boards of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE), the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Executive Committee) and is a member of the Atlanta Rotary Club, the Kappa Boule of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, and the 1999 class of Leadership Atlanta. Additionally, he is a member of the HBCU Capital Financing Advisory Board and the W.E.B. DuBois Scholars Commission. He is a former trustee of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund (Jacksonville). Previously, he served on the boards of the Community Foundation of Metro Atlanta, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Character Education Partnership, Congress of National Black Churches, Public Broadcasting of Atlanta, Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting, Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action, FaithTrust Institute (formerly the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence) and the Fund for Theological Education. He is the past chairman of the board of the Regional Council of Churches of Atlanta. In 2000, Mayor Bill Campbell appointed him co-chair of Atlanta 2000, the city’s official coordinating committee for Y2K activities and celebrations.

A seasoned traveler, Franklin has studied seven languages and visited Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Caribbean. He is the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant to examine religion in public life in Asia and produced NPR commentaries based on this research. Since 2003, he has served as a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Franklin is married to Dr. Cheryl Goffney Franklin, an OB-GYN physician who holds degrees from Stanford University, Columbia University School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School. He is the father of three children: Imani Renee Franklin; Robert M. Franklin III and Julian Michael DeShazer, a 2005 Morehouse graduate.
The Reverend Dr. Robert Michael Franklin Jr. ’75
President of Morehouse College

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