



PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BEN HANCOCK NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff, and Friends of the University,

Since March 1, 2011, I have had the distinct honor of serving as Methodist University's fourth president. From that first day to the present one, I have truly felt like I have "The Best Job in America." I am so grateful to the Board of Trustees for giving me this opportunity to serve, and through the collaborative leadership of the Board and the University, I believe we have successfully moved Methodist forward in so many ways. This is clearly evident as we witness the success of our students as they pursue their "MU Journey," and then graduate to pursue amazing careers and to live lives of meaning and purpose.

With my current contract coming to an end in 2018, it seemed to be an appropriate time for First Lady Debbie and me to consider our future and that of the University. The best timing for the University to go through a transition in leadership was paramount in our discussions. After much thought and prayer, I have decided to retire as President of Methodist University, effective May 31, 2018.

I hope by giving the Board of Trustees this early notification I will be providing them with as much time as possible to search for a new president who will lead the University through its next phase of growth. During my remaining months at Methodist, I pledge to do all that I can to ensure a smooth transition to the next president, and to continue to advance the University as outlined in the strategic plan and related directives inspired by the University community and approved by the Board of Trustees. The University and Board are in excellent hands under Mr. Mac Healy's leadership as Board Chair and with outstanding members of the Administrative Cabinet who are dedicated to the success of all members of our University community.

In the coming weeks, Chairman Healy will be announcing plans for the search for a new President of the University. I know the goal of the Trustees is to have my successor in place as soon as possible following my departure.

In closing, let me say again how honored I have been to serve as President of this amazing institution and to serve alongside dedicated trustees and University colleagues who share a commitment to a culture of excellence, and most important, are so passionate about our students and their success.

In retirement, the First Lady and I are looking forward to spending time with our family, including our five children and seven grandchildren, to traveling, and to pursuing the next leg of our personal journey. In the meantime, we hope to be able to express our gratitude personally to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have touched our lives in so many ways.

Best wishes for continued success. I truly have been blessed to have the Best Job in America, because of the Best People in America associated with this great University.



Ben Hancock
President