THE INVESTITURE OF
DR. LEROY STAGGERS AS THE TENTH PRESIDENT OF
MORRIS COLLEGE

Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve

Friday, the Twelfth of April
Two Thousand and Nineteen
Neal-Jones Fine Arts Center
Sumter, South Carolina
The Investiture of

**DR. LEROY STAGGERS**
as the Tenth President of Morris College

Friday, the Twelfth of April
Two Thousand and Nineteen
Eleven O’clock in the Morning

Neal-Jones Fine Arts Center
Sumter, South Carolina
DR. LEROY STAGGERS
TENTH PRESIDENT OF MORRIS COLLEGE
Dr. Leroy Staggers was named the tenth president of Morris College on July 1, 2018. He has been a part of the Morris College family for twenty-five years. Dr. Staggers joined the faculty of Morris College in 1993 as an Associate Professor of English and was later appointed Chairman of the Division of Religion and Humanities and Director of Faculty Development. For sixteen years, he served as Academic Dean and Professor of English. As Academic Dean, Dr. Staggers worked on all aspects of Morris College’s on-going reaffirmation of institutional accreditation, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Staggers remains committed to teaching. He frequently teaches English courses and enjoys working with students in the classroom, directly contributing to their intellectual growth and development.

Prior to coming to Morris College, Dr. Staggers served as Vice President for Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of English, and Director of Faculty Development at Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina. His additional higher education experience includes Chairman of the Division of Humanities and Assistant Professor of English at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina, and Instructor of English and Reading at Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama.

Dr. Staggers was born in Kingstree, South Carolina but grew up in Salters, South Carolina. After graduating from C. E. Murray High School in Greeleyville, South Carolina, he earned a bachelors degree from Voorhees College. He went on to earn both master’s degree and the doctorate from Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Additionally, he completed the Institute for Educational Management (IEM) Program at Harvard University in Boston, Massachusetts.

He is a member of Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church (JMBC) in Sumter, South Carolina where he served for five years as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the JMBC Christian and Academic School. Dr. Staggers’ favorite Scripture for constant meditation is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians chapter 4, verse 13).
The Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, composed of representatives from all of the Black Baptist Churches in the state, was chartered in 1877 “to promote the cause of Christ, especially in South Carolina by establishing a Theological and Literary Institute for the training of young men for the ministry, and also for the education of our sons and daughters.” It was not until 1908, however, that the Convention was able to acquire a site in Sumter, South Carolina, to establish a school, which it named in honor of the Rev. Frank Morris, a pioneer leader of the Rocky River Association. Thus began a heroic venture in higher education by a group of men and women less than a half a century removed from the blight of slavery. These founders were poor and without formal learning themselves, but they possessed an unfaltering faith in God and a zeal to provide for others the educational opportunities they themselves had been denied.

In 1911, the College received a certificate of incorporation from the State of South Carolina. Initially the institution provided schooling at the elementary, high school and college levels with the college curriculum including liberal arts programs, a program for the certification of teachers, and a theological program. In 1915, the first Bachelor of Arts degrees were awarded to 2 graduates.

In 1930, the elementary school was discontinued, and the institution converted from a four-year college to a two-year junior college, however, in 1933 it resumed its status as a four-year college. In 1946, the high school was discontinued. In 1948, Dr. Odell R. Reuben began a twenty-two year term as President, during this time the College experienced significant growth in programs, enrollment and facilities. One aspect of this growth was the establishment in 1948 of the Morris College School of Religion. The School of Religion operated until 1996 when its program to train ministers and Christian educators was transferred to the College itself. In 1961, the certificate of incorporation was amended to delete the word “Negro” thereby opening the doors at Morris to students of all ethnic groups.

In 1974, Dr. Luns C. Richardson took the oath of office as the college president, and initiated the longest term of service of any of the College’s Presidents. In 1978, under Dr. Richardson’s leadership, Morris College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and became qualified to award baccalaureate degrees. On January 1, 1982, Morris College became the forty second member of the United Negro College Fund/UNCF, the nation’s largest and most successful black fundraising organization.

Accreditation and UNCF membership launched the college into an era of remarkable growth and development during the 1980s and 1990s. The growth years of the 1980s and 1990s were accompanied by the initiation of new academic programs which included Broadcast Media, Christian Education, Criminal Justice, Pastoral Ministry, Recreation Administration, and the initiation of a Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program. In 1996, the College introduced the Organizational Management Program which is offered during evening and weekend hours. This program is opened to non-traditional students who wish to resume and complete their college degrees. The 1990s era was marked by a substantial expansion of new technologies on the campus with the establishment and expansion of 5 computer laboratories which allow every student to have access to the internet.

In its one hundred eleven years of existence, Morris College has been guided by ten presidents, 3 interim presidents and 2 interim committees as shown below:

- Dr. Edward M. Brawley (1908-1912)
- Dr. John J. Starks (1912-1930)
- Dr. Ira David Pinson (1930-1939)
- Dr. James P. Garrick (1939-1946)
- Dr. Henry H. Butler (1946-1948)
Dr. Jeff W. Boykin (Interim President 1948)
Dr. Odell R. Reuben (1948-1970)
Interim Committee (Dr. Henry Hardin, Chairman; Dr. W. L. Wilson, Dr. W.H. Neal, Dr. J.L. Brooks and Dr. Anna Reuben 1970-1971)
Dr. Henry Hardin (Interim President 1971-1972)
Dr. Henry E. Hardin (1972-1973)
Interim Committee (Dr. J.W. Taylor, Chairman; Dr. J.L. Brooks, Rev. R.W. Stallings, (1973-1974)
Dr. Luns C. Richardson (1974-2017)
Dr. Leroy Staggers (Interim President 2017-2018)
Dr. Leroy Staggers (2018-)

Morris College is located at 100 West College Street, Sumter South Carolina, on forty-one acres. The campus consists of twenty-six buildings. The list below includes the name of each building and the year of erection and renovation where applicable.

- Academic Hall (1924, renovated 1990)
- Brawley-Starks Academic Success Center (1932, renovated 1998)
- Pinson Administration Building (1946)
- Mabel K. Howard Building (1954)
- G. Goings Daniels Hall (1964, renovated 2003)
- Dobbins-Keith-Whitener Residence Hall (1967)
- L. C. Richardson—W. A. Johnson Learning Resources Center (1980)
- W. H. Neal-Iola Jones Fine Arts Center (1980)
- Anna D. Reuben, Mamie Coker, Magnolia Lewis, Albertha Simons Hall (1984)
- The President’s Home (1986)
- Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center (1991)
- Charles Gilchrist Adams, C. Mackey Daniels, Marion Woodard Wright McLester, Beatrice Gregg Sanders Hall (1980)
- Bertie B. White Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (2010)
- Forensics Center (2011)
- Solomon Jackson, Sr., William McKinley Bowman, Sr., Raymond Carolina Physical Plant Building (2011)
- Student Health and Wellness Center (2012)
- Annie Mae Bowman, Audree A. Clark Residence Hall (2013)
- Daisy B. Bowman, Lewis P. Graham Residence Hall (2013)
- Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr. Administration Building (2017)

Morris College has more than justified the faith, labors, and sacrifices of its founders. Its positive impact has been and continues to be extensive and invaluable. From its beginning, Morris College has been a center for training ministers for the pulpit and teachers for the schools. In the State of South Carolina as well as the nation, its graduates rank high among all professionals. Hundreds of African American young people, who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to attend college, have received the benefits of higher education at Morris College. They are a cadre of successful citizens.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
The Honorary J. David Weeks, Chairman

Dr. Audrey P. Neal, Vice Chair
Dr. James B. Blassingame, Secretary
Dr. Ronald D. Barton
Reverend Aaron T. Brown, Sr.
Dr. Jacqueline W. Canty
Dr. James L. Carter
Ms. Gail China
Dr. James H. Cokley
Deacon Jerry M. Earl
Reverend Ricky R. Ezell
Ms. Hilda D. Gadsden
Reverend Norman Gamble
Reverend Tommy Gibson
Dr. Willie E. Givens, Jr., Chairman Emeritus
Mr. Troy Glover
Dr. Jamey O. Graham, Sr.
Dr. Donald E. Greene, Jr.
Dr. Isaac J. Holt, Jr.
Dr. Solomon Jackson, Jr.
Dr. Waymon Mumford
Ms. Crystal R. Myers
Dr. Marion H. Newton
Dr. Emma M. Owens
Dr. Toney C. Parks
Ms. Ruth M. Pendergrass
Dr. Henry B. Peoples
Reverend McKinley Ravenell
Dr. Leo Richardson
Ms. Patricia Thrett
Ms. Mary Jo Walker
Reverend William Webb
Dr. George P. Windley, Sr.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Dr. Leroy Staggers
President

Dr. Jacob E. Butler, Jr.
Interim Academic Dean

Mr. Robert Eaves
Director of Business Affairs

Dr. Juana L. Davis-Freeman
Dean of Student Affairs

Ms. Dorothy Cheagle
Director of Planning and Governmental Relations

Rev. Melvin Mack
Director of Institutional Advancement and Church Relations Officer
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>1636</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
<td>Dr. Marla Frederick</td>
<td>Professor of African and African American Studies and of the Study of Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>1770</td>
<td>College of Charleston</td>
<td>Dr. Linda Swain Crabbe</td>
<td>Alumni Association Board Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td>Newberry College</td>
<td>Dr. Sandra Rouse-Berry</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
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<td>1869</td>
<td>Claflin University</td>
<td>Dr. Henry N. Tisdale</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>1870</td>
<td>Allen University</td>
<td>Dr. Ernest McNealey</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Benedict College</td>
<td>Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis</td>
<td>President and CEO</td>
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<td>1886</td>
<td>Winthrop University</td>
<td>Ms. Brenda Peyton Chase</td>
<td>Alumni Executive Board Member</td>
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<td>1889</td>
<td>Saint Leo University</td>
<td>Mr. Terrence D. Gilmore</td>
<td>Shaw Education Center Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Clinton College</td>
<td>Dr. Lester McCorn</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>1897</td>
<td>Voorhees College</td>
<td>Dr. W. Franklin Evans</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Spartanburg Methodist College</td>
<td>Dr. Mark W. Gibbs</td>
<td>Provost</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>Bob Jones University</td>
<td>Dr. Dan Smith</td>
<td>Registrar</td>
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<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Denmark Technical College</td>
<td>Dr. Christopher J. Hall</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Central Carolina Technical College</td>
<td>Ms. Ronalda Stover</td>
<td>Director of Human Resources</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Charleston Southern University</td>
<td>Dr. Dondi E. Costin</td>
<td>President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>University of South Carolina Sumter</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Sonntag</td>
<td>Dean</td>
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THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Presiding

Dr. Donald E. Greene, Jr.
President, Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, Inc.
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

African Welcome. Ms. Natalie Williams and Mr. Jamey Johnson
The Caroline Mack Center for the Arts

Procession. "War March of the Priests" Felix Mendelssohn
Dr. Gregory Thompson
Associate Professor of Music, Winston-Salem University

Presentation of Colors. Morris College ROTC

Pledge of Allegiance. Cadet E’Setua Benjamin
Sophomore, Criminal Justice Major

Anthem "Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing"
Mr. Herbert Johnson, Director of the Morris College Chorale

Welcome Dr. Mack T. Hines
Immediate Past Chairman, Morris College Board of Trustees

Purpose Elder J. Elbert Williams
Co-chair, Presidential Investiture Committee

Invocation Dr. Jamey O. Graham
Vice President at Large, Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina, Inc.
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Scripture Readings
Old Testament. Joshua chapter 1, verses 1-9 Dr. Norman Gamble
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

New Testament. Philippians chapter 4, verses 4-9 Dr. James H. Cokley
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Musical Selection “Amazing Grace” Ms. Thelma Isaac

Greetings
State of South Carolina The Honorable J. Thomas McElveen, III
South Carolina Senate District 35

Sumter County The Honorable James T. McCain
Chairman, Sumter County Council

City of Sumter The Honorable Joseph T. McElveen, Jr.
Mayor

College President Dr. Henry N. Tisdale
President, Claflin University
Musical Selection............“Go Down Moses”.................Morris College Chorale
Mr. Herbert Johnson, Director

Greetings (continue)

Faculty and Staff .............................................. Dr. Radman M. Ali
Professor and Chairperson, Division of Natural Science and Mathematics

Alumni ................................................................. Mrs. Ruth M. Pendergrass
President, Morris College National Alumni Association

Student ............................................................... Mr. Raekwon K. McFadden
President, Student Government Association

Musical Selection ................................................. Ms. Jane Luther Smith
Senior Instructor of Music, University of South Carolina Sumter

Investing of the President

Robing................................................................. Dr. Isaac J. Holt, Jr.
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Dr. Toney C. Parks
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees
President, South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education

Medallion............................................................ Dr. Jacqueline W. Canty
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Mace................................................................. Dr. Audrey P. Neal
Vice Chairman, Morris College Board of Trustees

Charter ............................................................... Dr. Henry B. Peoples
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Oath................................................................. The Honorable J. David Weeks
Chairman, Morris College Board of Trustees
Representative, South Carolina House District 51

Investiture Prayer.................................................. Dr. Marion H. Newton
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Presidential Charge .................................................. Dr. Michael Lomax
President and CEO, United Negro College Fund
Former President, Dillard University

Introduction of the Tenth President

Musical Selection. ..........“The Lord’s Prayer”............... Ms. Thelma Isaac

Presidential Response. ................................................ Dr. Leroy Staggers
Tenth President of Morris College

Acknowledgements

Alma Mater

Benediction......................................................... Dr. Waymon Mumford
Member, Morris College Board of Trustees

Recession. .................................“Pomp and Circumstance”........... Edward Elgar
THE BAPTIST EDUCATIONAL AND MISSIONARY CONVENTION OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESIDENTS

Dr. L. P. Brockington 1877-1908  
Dr. Stewart C. Cureton 1986-1991

Reverend G. W. Raford 1908-1909  
Dr. Ed F. Johnson 1991-1996

Dr. J. J. Durham 1909-1915  
Dr. Willie E. Givens, Jr. 1996-2001

Dr. J. S. Earl 1915-1933  
Dr. Ezekiel F. Hampton 2001-2005

Dr. Henry H. Butler 1933-1948  
Dr. Lewis P. Graham 2005-2008

Dr. G. Goings Daniels 1948-1961  
Dr. Benjamin D. Snoddy 2008-2013

Dr. W. L. Wilson 1961-1976  
Dr. James B. Blassingame 2013-2018

Dr. Wescott A. Johnson 1976-1981  
Dr. Donald E. Greene, Jr. 2018-Present

Dr. James O. Rich 1981-1986
ROBING
The traditional black gown with black velvet chevrons and panels has given way to more colorful attire that often makes use of the institution's academic colors. Although many robes have black chevrons and panels, others may use one of the institution's colors. Often the velvet is piped with gold or silver braiding. In addition, many presidential robes are now designed with a five to eight inch velvet hem around the bottom, with this too being piped in gold or silver. The velvet on the hood is often of the same color as that on the gown, which means that it may or may not be the color symbolic of the president's earned doctorate. Finally, the use of the traditional mortarboard by college and university presidents is giving way to the velvet tam with gold metallic tassel.

PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION
The Presidential Medallion is given to a new college or university president to signify the transfer of the responsibility of the office and the obligation to maintain the values and traditions of the institution. The Morris College Presidential Medallion, made of cast brass, displays the College’s Seal surrounded by a wreath of laurel leaves, which is the traditional symbol of excellence in the arts and education. Atop of the medallion is a brass plaque engraved with the word “President.” Two cast brass fleurs-de-lis connect the medallion to a double chain containing nine small brass panels engraved with the names, dates, and tenure of the nine former presidents of the College. The tenth brass panel is engraved with the name of the current president. Two brass rondels engraved with the College’s Motto, “Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve,” complete the double chain.

COLLEGE MACE
The ceremonial academic mace appeared in European universities in the 14th century. Highly ornamented, the mace is an amalgamation of the regal scepter and the medieval battle mace. Carried before the president in academic procession, it represents the authority of the office. The placement of the mace on its stand indicates the opening of the proceedings, and its retirement indicates the conclusion of the ceremony.

The forty-two inch Morris College Mace is constructed of cherry wood and brass. The cherry wood shaft is topped with a brass collar engraved on four sides: two with the College Seal and two with the Christian Cross. Above the collar is a cherry wood disk, displaying on one side the Seal in brass and royal blue enamel work, on the other side is the Christian Cross.

COLLEGE CHARTER
Morris College was founded in 1908 “…to provide educational opportunities for Negro students.” On April 12, 1911, the institution received an initial Certificate of Incorporation from the State of South Carolina. Although the levels of education have changed over the years, the Certification of Incorporation remained the same until August of 1961, when the Certification of Incorporation was amended to delete the word “Negro” thereby opening the doors of the College to students of all ethnicities.
ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia—the robes, hoods, and hats worn by participants in college and university ceremonies—originated in Medieval Europe. The styles and colors represent the level of academic achievement and discipline of the wearer and are generally recognized as representing baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees. The baccalaureate takes its name from the medieval practice of “bachelors” wearing garlands of bayberries. The master’s degree was the equivalent of a license to teach and sometimes was followed by the phrase “licentia docendi.” The doctoral degree was originally a title of respect and recognition of great learning. When earned through study, as are the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, etc., the doctoral degree indicates advanced study and independent research in a specialized field of learning. Honorary degrees are granted for meritorious service and for distinction in public or private endeavors.

The gown for the bachelor’s degree is distinguished by long, pointed sleeves hanging nearly to the knees. The master’s gown has long closed sleeves with an arc of a circle appearing near the bottom and slits for the arms near the middle of the sleeves. The doctoral gown is faced with a broad strip of velvet and has three bars of velvet on each sleeve.

The color of the velvet strip on the hood indicates the field of study in which the degree was earned or granted; for example, Arts, white; Business, drab or sapphire blue; Economics, copper; Education, light blue; Fine Arts, brown; Library Science, lemon; Music, pink; Philosophy, dark blue; Physical Education, sage green, Science, gold-yellow; and Social Work, citron. Each hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution that granted the degree.

The appropriate cap for all degrees is the familiar black “mortar board.” A black tassel or one of color signifying the field of specialization, hanging to the left of the face, is appropriate for all degrees. Those holding doctoral degrees may wear a soft velvet cap and a tassel in whole or in part of gold thread.
GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University
Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D.
President

Albany State University
Marion Federick
President

Anderson University
Evans P. Whitaker, Ph.D.
President

Benedict College
Roslyn Clark Artis, J.D., Ed.D.
President and CEO

Bowie State University
Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.
President

Berry College
Stephen R. Briggs
President

Charleston Southern University
Dondi E. Costin, Ph.D.
President

Coastal Carolina University
David A. Decenzo, Ph.D.
President

Dillard University
Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph.D.
President

Furman University
Elizabeth Davis, Ph.D.
President

Georgia Southern University
Neal R. Weaver, Ph.D.
President

Harris-Stowe State University
Dwaun J. Warmack, Ed.D.
President

Harvard University
Margot N. Gill, Ph.D.
Interim University Marshall

High Point University
Nido R. Qubein, Ph.D
President

Huston-Tillotson University
Colette P. Burnette, Ed.D.
President and CEO

Johnson C. Smith University
Clarence D. Armbrister, Ph.D.
President

Kentucky State University
M. Christopher Brown II, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Lyon College
W. Joseph King, Ph.D.
President

Maryville College
William T. Bogart, Ph.D.
President

Morehouse College
David A. Thomas, Ph.D.
President

Philander Smith College
Roderick L. Smothers, Sr., Ph.D.
President and CEO

Rust College
David L. Beckley, Ph.D.
President

Saint Augustine's University
Everett B. Ward, Ph.D.
President

SC House of Representatives
Robert L. Ridgeway, III
District 64

SC Senate
Kevin L. Johnson
District 36

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

Spelman College
Mary Schmidt Campbell, Ph.D.
President

The Council of Independent Colleges
Richard Ekman, Ph.D.
President

Tougaloo College
Beverly W. Hogan, Ph.D.
President

Transylvania University
Seamus Carey, Ph.D.
President

US House of Representatives
James E. Clyburn
Assistant Democratic Leader
Sixth District SC

University of South Carolina
Beaufort
Al M. Panu, Ph.D.
Chancellor

University of South Carolina Upstate
Brendan B. Kelly, Ph.D.
Chancellor

University of the Ozarks
Richard L. Dunsworth, J.D.
President

Virginia Union University
Hakim J. Lucas, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Voorhees College
W. Franklin Evans, Ph.D.
President

Winthrop University
Daniel F. Mahony, Ph.D.
President
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Aladdin Food Service Management
Ben Griffith Jr., State Farm Insurance Agent
Black River Electric Cooperative
Bryan Law Firm of SC, LLP
    Carolina-Doric, Inc.
Creech Roddey Watson Insurance
    Curtis and Craft, LLC
Elder J. Elbert Williams
Frasier Tire Service
Friends of Jim Clyburn
First Citizens Bank
Global Tax and Business Services, LLC
    The GoodFellows
Ms. Debra Walker Hamm
Hastie Law Firm, LLC
Jackson McGill Funeral Home
    Jones Buick GMC
Neal Family Cemetery
    South State Bank
Sumter Casket Company
    Sumter Sertoma Club
Synovous Bank
Tammy Adams Kelly, State Farm Insurance Agent
    Greg A. and Danielle L. Thompson
    Triumph Baptist Church
Young Women’s Christian Association
    W. O. Blackstone & Company
**Presidential Investiture Committee**

Dr. Donald E. Greene, Jr., *Chairman*

Elder J. Elbert Williams, Co-Chairman

Ms. Andrea Butler
Ms. Gail China
Ms. Janet Smith Clayton
Ms. Patrice Cooper
Ms. Lucille Davis
Mr. Alston Freeman
Ms. Hilda D. Gadsden
Ms. Eva Hickman
Mr. Darnell Holland
Mr. Clarence Houck
Ms. Cheryl Mack
Rev. Melvin Mack

Mr. Terrence McCants
Ms. Georthia Moses
Ms. Arswanette Myers
Mr. Lenn Ramsey
Dr. Kay Rhoads
Ms. Angela Ruth
Ms. Shelia South
Ms. Carlotta Stackhouse
Ms. Henrietta Temoney
Ms. Tiffany Walters
Mr. Rudolph Wheeler
Ms. Loleta Woods

**Marshals**

Dr. Patricia M. Ali
Dr. Radman M. Ali
Dr. James Ibe
Dr. Kay Rhoads
Ms. LaVon Simpson

Mr. Rudolph Wheeler
LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

Lift ev’ry 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 the slaughtered;
Out from 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.

Composed by James Weldon Johnson

THE ALMA MATER

MORRIS our college dear
With hearts all filled with cheer
We come to thee;
Throughout life’s checkered ways
Thy name we’ll ever praise
Teacher of youthful ways
All hail to thee.

When from our homes we came
To own thy lofty name
Breathe courage free.
Parents and teachers dear
Calmed by the lack of fear
Pay homage through the years
All hail to thee.

Composed by Ms. Ida Y. Pullens, 1924