



Cornerstone UNIVERSITY®

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Joseph M. Stowell

Dear Cornerstone Family,

In the ongoing saga of tough decisions regarding coronavirus, one of the most difficult was our decision to cancel our commencement ceremonies this May for Traditional Undergraduate, Professional & Graduate Studies and Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. We are all aware that commencement is the crowning glory of a college experience and a time when family and friends come to celebrate their graduates' accomplishments. I am deeply saddened for our graduates who have blessed our CU community and who have worked so hard to reach the ultimate goal of graduation and the excitement of this ceremony. Be assured that this weighty decision included much discussion and prayer.

Due to Monday's guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control restricting assemblies of more than 150 people through May 9, we didn't have much choice. Delaying the announcement into April would have only compounded the uncertainty that many would be feeling about their plans. As you know, we literally have thousands of people on campus for our three commencement services. We considered the possibility of setting an alternative date but given the fluidity of the situation and the likelihood of travel plans having then been made to accommodate the alternative date, the thought of having to cancel the next announced date seemed to be unwise.

All of this to say that we are determined to find the best way to honor our grads in 2020! Many creative ideas are now under consideration. So, stay tuned. We will provide updates as new information becomes available. Be sure to go to cornerstone.edu/coronavirus where announcements are posted.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. And, a special thanks to our graduates. You have blessed us with your dedication, passion and inspiration. We count it a high honor to have had the privilege of being part of your life journey and we look forward to the great things you will do for Christ and His kingdom.

Joe Stowell
President

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