

Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on November 6, 2017

Location: Hendricks Chapel

Remarks: Dean of Hendricks Chapel Portrait and Plaque Dedication

The Chancellor was introduced by the incoming Dean of Hendricks Chapel, the Reverend Brian Konkol.

Thank you, Brian, for the introduction, on the eve of your installation as Dean of Hendricks Chapel. I thank all the people who have helped make tomorrow happen—the staff, the chaplains, the search and review committees, and the many friends of Hendricks Chapel.

Tomorrow, we look forward to formally beginning a new chapter in the extraordinary story of Hendricks Chapel. As we turn that page, it's appropriate to pay respect to the leaders who ensured this Chapel would remain the soul of Syracuse University.

In particular, I want to thank and honor Deans Tiffany Steinwert and Sam Clemence. Dean Tiffany Steinwert stewarded Hendricks Chapel from 2010 to 2015. Dean Sam Clemence, who agreed to step into the Interim Dean position when Dean Steinwert accepted her post as dean of religious and spiritual life at Wellesley College in Massachusetts, led Hendricks from 2015-2017.

Dean Steinwert was the sixth dean of the Chapel, and its first female dean in its 80-year history. I'm proud that your portrait will adorn this sacred place.

Tiffany, the volume of history of Hendricks Chapel stops before you assumed this call. I think the new chapters about your time here will be at least as interesting and compelling as what came before.

You led in engaging the Chapel and the University in the broader community in our city and region. You were deeply committed to justice, to ecumenical work, and to diversity and inclusion. And you were there for two chancellors in times of deep stress and tragedy at our University—there to comfort, to inspire, and to elevate our aspirations.

Sam Clemence stepped up to the plate—as he has on so many occasions—to provide interim leadership after Dean Steinwert left for Wellesley. With nearly 40 years of teaching experience in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Sam had earned the respect of students, staff and faculty.

Clemence had also served as a spiritual life group advisor for more than a decade and has been an active member of the University’s Spiritual Life Council. He understood the culture of both Syracuse University and Hendricks Chapel.

Last year, he agreed to co-chair the committee charged with conducting a comprehensive review of Hendricks Chapel and identifying the best candidate to lead the chapel as its next dean.

It is only fitting that he has a place on the wall of Hendricks Chapel. Sam, your dedication to this sanctuary and its centrality to Syracuse University will be forever remembered and appreciated.

Thank you, Tiffany and Sam, for your extraordinary service to this place of service.

####