

A Charge to the 2014 Graduates of the Academy for Public Theology

By Dr. W. Clyde Williams, Academic Dean

Congratulations Graduates! Now that you have received your diplomas, you fall into the category of pioneers and legacy builders. This is not a beginning nor an end. It is a moment in time on your journey in life.

Whatever challenges you face going forward, you must face them with the same perseverance, determination, tenacity and hunger that you have demonstrated over the past two years. There are other people like you – responsible, dedicated and committed individuals who are striving to excel and contribute their share. And you have shown them it is possible!

Two years ago when Bishop Snorton, Rev. Gloria Haynes, Rev. Charles Williams and I stood in each annual conference and laid out this educational opportunity, there were nay-sayers. Some doubted, but here we are today, having opened the door of a dream deferred for many, yet a dream now fulfilled for you!

Now the task is yours to make your diploma work for you and to realize the true meaning of your accomplishment. You are not the same person who walked through those classroom doors two years ago. You craved knowledge. You cannot go back. You have shown others that achievement is not out of reach for those who give their all. Today you are an inspiration to your family, your friends and your church.

So, I say to you, go forth with knowledge. Go forth with understanding. Go forth with patience and love. Go forth with audacity and capacity, go forth with commitment, character and content. But above all, go forth with God.