

WABASH COLLEGE

Craig Richard Dykstra Doctor of Humane Letters

Craig Richard Dykstra, the Wabash College community is proud to pay tribute to you and express our gratitude for the contributions you have made to this College, its centers of distinction, and its reputation over the course of your distinguished career at Lilly Endowment.

Native of Grosse Pointe, Michigan and honors graduate of the University of Michigan, you earned your Master of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and later your Ph.D., *magna cum laude*, with special emphasis on philosophy and Christian education. You were ordained by the Presbytery of Detroit in 1973. Throughout your life you have followed your calling as pastor, educator, and administrator with the highest degree of honor and integrity.

Wabash knows you best for your 23 years of service to Lilly Endowment, where you were the Senior Vice President for Religion. Like all who serve the Endowment, you stood out of the limelight, but your careful leadership and commitment to the theological exploration of vocation has strengthened the ways college and seminary educators have nurtured generations of pastors, preparing them to serve the changing needs of their congregations. Over the arc of your career at Lilly Endowment, you oversaw the investment of more than \$1.5 billion in grants that have shaped the understanding and practice of religion in American life.

You worked closely with Wabash Professor of Religion Raymond Williams to create the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion — the idea a seed germinated during a conference here in 1995. The Wabash Center now has an international reputation of excellence through its meetings, workshops, grants, consultations, and its journal, *Teaching Theology and Religion*, all designed to improve pedagogy in colleges, universities, and seminaries. Since its founding in 1996, the Wabash Center has received eight Lilly Endowment grants totaling more than \$40 million. This summer, the Wabash Center will welcome its 1,000th workshop participant, a mark of its lasting influence on hundreds of individuals and over 300 colleges, universities, schools of theology, and seminaries. You said, “As increasing numbers of participants in the Wabash Center’s programs are becoming deans, department chairs, and senior faculty leaders, the knowledge and skills they learned at Wabash are having a powerful and positive influence within the institutions they serve, and among theological schools nationwide.” Indeed, the seed has blossomed.

Working with Dr. Williams in his third retirement, you helped create the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program in 2008. That innovative two-year program develops the leadership capacity of small cohorts of Indiana pastors early in their careers through a series of meetings with state and national leaders and two study tours. In this way, too, you are strengthening our communities by developing the men and women whose congregational leadership is widespread.

Today you provide guidance at the Duke University Divinity School, where you are a Research Professor of Practical Theology and a Senior Fellow in Leadership Education. There you draw on your vast experiences to continue to reimagine the future of pastoral ministry and what it means to lead a Christian life.

As a scholar and teacher, you are a tireless speaker, writer, and editor with four books, a dozen book chapters, and scores of articles that have shaped the way our culture understands education in faith and vocation. In 2009, you received the prestigious Award for Individual Philanthropic Leadership from the over 700 member institutions of the Council of Independent Colleges. You are a member of the American Academy of Religion and serve on the Editorial Council of *Theology Today*.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels named you a Sagamore of the Wabash in 2012, the same year you were inducted into The Indiana Academy. You continue to lead the work of Lilly Endowment as a member of its Board of Directors.

Craig Richard Dykstra, throughout your life you have been a beacon of vocational integrity following your own calling as pastor, educator, scholar, and philanthropist — and through your calling you have strengthened our churches, colleges, seminaries, and communities. Therefore, by the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wabash College and delegated to that Board by the State of Indiana, I do hereby confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, with all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereunto appertaining, of which this citation shall be a permanent witness.

Patrick E. White
President, Wabash College
May 12, 2013