FISHBOWL LEADERSHIP

Dr. Paul Alexander
President, Trinity Bible College & Graduate School

2023 ABHE Annual Meeting
College Presidents face an array of leadership challenges unlike almost any other. We are at the junction of multiple competing interests.
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights

• **Board** - Most of whom have little or no experience in Christian Higher Education
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights

• **Board** - Most of whom have little or no experience in Christian Higher Education

• **Cabinet** - Or “Q suite” who are mainly supportive but need more resources
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights

• **Board** - Most of whom have little or no experience in Christian Higher Education

• **Cabinet** - Or “Q suite” who are mainly supportive but need more resources

• **Donors** - Increasingly demand higher levels of accountability
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights

• **Board** - Most of whom have little or no experience in Christian Higher Education

• **Cabinet** - Or “Q suite” who are mainly supportive but need more resources

• **Donors** - Increasingly demand higher levels of accountability

• **Accreditors** - Those reports seem to come earlier each year
• **Faculty** - Notoriously independent and difficult to lead

• **Students** - Always has been a challenge, but add the impact of the pandemic and the pervasiveness of mental health issues to the load

• **Parents** - Each one believing they have special access and rights

• **Board** - Most of whom have little or no experience in Christian Higher Education

• **Cabinet** - Or “Q suite” who are mainly supportive but need more resources

• **Donors** - Increasingly demand higher levels of accountability

• **Accreditors** - Those reports seem to come earlier each year

• **Regulators** - Whose priorities change with changing administrations
The length of service of Presidents in the US has now plunged to 3-5 years.
1. Some Keys Relating to Character and Discipline
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• **Pray first** (Philippians 1:3-11)
• **Rejoice in all things** (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• **Pray first** (Philippians 1:3-11)

• **Rejoice in all things** (Philippians 1:12-14)

• **Maintain a personal witness to Christ** (Philippians 1:19)

• **Watch for the difference between vision and ambition** (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
• Nurture friendship (Philippians 2:19-30)
- Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
- Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
- Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
- Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
- Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
- Nurture friendship (Philippians 2:19-30)
- Articulate trust (Philippians 3:3-8)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
• Nurture friendship (Philippians 2:19-30)
• Articulate trust (Philippians 3:3-8)
• Press on (Philippians 3:12-14)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
• Nurture friendship (Philippians 2:19-30)
• Articulate trust (Philippians 3:3-8)
• Press on (Philippians 3:12-14)
• Celebrate (Philippians 4:1-4)
• Pray first (Philippians 1:3-11)
• Rejoice in all things (Philippians 1:12-14)
• Maintain a personal witness to Christ (Philippians 1:19)
• Watch for the difference between vision and ambition (Philippians 2:1-8)
• Guard against grumbling (Philippians 2:14)
• Nurture friendship (Philippians 2:19-30)
• Articulate trust (Philippians 3:3-8)
• Press on (Philippians 3:12-14)
• Celebrate (Philippians 4:1-4)
• Give generously (Philippians 4:10-19)
2. Strategies for Maintaining Internal, Emotional, and Spiritual Health
• Facts are your friends
• Facts are your friends

• Don’t ripen to soon – maximize the season
• Facts are your friends
• Don’t ripen to soon – maximize the season
• Permission is yours to give – you are the keeper of your soul
• Facts are your friends

• Don’t ripen to soon – maximize the season

• Permission is yours to give – you are the keeper of your soul

• Stuff happens
• Facts are your friends
• Don’t ripen to soon – maximize the season
• Permission is yours to give – you are the keeper of your soul
• Stuff happens
• Use journey language
3. Warning Signs to Avoid Trouble Ahead
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• No courage to innovate
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• No courage to innovate
• Internal spiritual conflict
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• No courage to innovate
• Internal spiritual conflict
• Consistent anxiety
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• No courage to innovate
• Internal spiritual conflict
• Consistent anxiety
• Unnecessary busyness
• Watch for inappropriate responses
• An inability to rejoice with others
• Being evasive
• No courage to innovate
• Internal spiritual conflict
• Consistent anxiety
• Unnecessary busyness
• Obsessive tendencies
This our our day, we must seize it.
THANK YOU!

Stay in touch

50 6th Ave S, Ellendale, ND 58436

800.523.1603  trinitybiblecollege.edu

president@trinitybiblecollege.edu

@trinitybible

2023 ABHE Annual Meeting