

## Call of President of North Park University: Mary Karsten Surridge



The North Park University Board of Trustees has nominated Mary Karsten Surridge to serve as the school's tenth president. The nomination comes with the concurrence of the Covenant Executive Board.

Surridge has served as the university's vice-president for advancement since 2008. Her North Park career has been highlighted by her direction of Campaign North Park, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the school's history, with \$63 million in commitments, including \$41 million for the Johnson Center for Science and Community Life. Most recently, in addition to her duties in advancement, she has been leading undergraduate admissions while the university searches for a new vice-president for Enrollment Management and Marketing.

Surridge's previous higher education experience includes several years as an associate director of planned and major gifts at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; director of residence life and student activities at Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin; and dean of students at Marian College (now Marian University) in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

She holds a BS in communications from Northwestern and an MS in student personnel administration from Concordia.

"The Board sought a candidate who combines knowledge of higher education, an abiding belief in the mission of North Park, and a deep and ongoing connection to the Covenant Church," said Kristine Strand, North Park's board chair. "Mary's proven ability to secure critical resources for students, faculty, and staff, and her recent success in overseeing undergraduate admissions, will serve the campus, the church, and our many constituents well for years to come."

"North Park is a strong, vibrant, and uniquely positioned institution within Christian higher education, and we offer an excellent academic, co-curricular, and personal experience to students who seek to learn and grow in our stimulating urban environment," Surridge said. "I'm honored and grateful to respond with enthusiasm to this nomination and the endorsement of the search committee, our trustees, and the Executive Board of the church."

She and her husband, Jack, North Park's longtime athletic director, are members of North Park Covenant Church in Chicago. They have one daughter, Jessie (19).

Surridge, 55, would succeed David L. Parkyn, who retired at the end of the 2016–2017 academic year. Carl E. Balsam has served as interim president since that time. She would become North Park's first female president.