Richie Butler ‘93 is a leader in both the faith and business communities of the greater Dallas area. Butler currently serves as senior pastor at St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church. He previously founded Union Cathedral, an independent interdenominational church, which he successfully merged with the historic St. Paul United Methodist Church in downtown Dallas in 2014.

In addition to his role as a senior pastor at St. Luke’s, Butler has been responsible for nearly $1 billion in real estate investment activity throughout the United States as a private equity real estate fund manager with Prescott Group and CityView.

As a civic leader, Butler launched Project Unity in 2017 to help heal race relationships between law enforcement and the Dallas community. During the pandemic, the organization has also been devoted to improving access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in minority communities.

Butler is the recipient of the 2021 Dallas Business Journal’s Leaders in Diversity Award and the 2021 Collin County Business Alliance Leadership Award. He previously received the SMU Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award in 2008 and the Dallas Bar Association 2017 Martin Luther King, Jr. Justice Award. He was also named a 2018 Minority Business Leader award honoree by the Dallas Business Journal and a 2018 SMU Silver Anniversary Mustang (SAM) recipient.

Butler played football for SMU from 1989 to 1993. He holds two bachelor’s degrees from SMU and a master’s in theology from Harvard University. He has also done extended studies in urban planning at MIT and was the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study art history and political science in Europe.

Butler resides in Dallas with his wife, Neisha, who is a 1993 graduate of SMU, and their two children, Emily and Ford.

**THE SMU MCKENZIE BIBLE**

The McKenzie Bible was printed in 1886 and once was the property of J.W.P. McKenzie, a pioneer in Methodist education in Texas. It was used continually by McKenzie, who established McKenzie College at Clarksville, once the largest institution of higher learning in Texas. This historic Bible was presented to SMU in 1916 by Mrs. Milton Ragsdale of Dallas, a niece of McKenzie.

The McKenzie Bible was first used at SMU’s 1916 Commencement Convocation, and the University is proud to use it at tonight’s Baccalaureate Service.

**MINISTRY OF WORSHIP**

Presiding: R. Gerald Turner, President of the University
Speaking: Pastor Richie L. Butler ‘93, Senior Pastor at St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church
Liturgist: Elisabeth A. Garvin, Chaplain and Minister to the University
Readers: Elaina M. Abraham, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences
Derek M. Younkers, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Musicians: Imperial Brass

Meadows School of the Arts Vocal Performance Graduates:
Emma E. Arduino, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Alyssa K. Longoria, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Education
Karl A. Martin, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Grace Nunnely, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy
Kealey M. Poole, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance
Amy K. Tippin, Candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Music

**GUILD OF MARSHALS**

Jodi Cooley, Chief Marshal
Bradley Kent Carter, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Thomas B. Fomby, Chief Marshal Emeritus
Thomas Osang, Procession Marshal
Karen Baker-Fletcher, Platform Marshal

**BACCALAUREATE MARSHALS**

Nathan S. Balke
Jing Cao
Ruben L. F. Habito
Maribeth Kuenzi
Rebekah Miles
Brian Molanphy
David Sedman

For more information about tomorrow’s Commencement activities, please refer to smu.edu/maycommencement.
Words: Gary Hauk
Tune: ASH GROVE

Our eyes fastened on a new heav’n, a new earth.
So let us be faithful, our hearts always grateful,
With God, who seeks most lives of love, souls of mirth.
Our hope unabating, we too are creating
As we strive to do what creation demands.
It calls out and molds us, sustains and enfolds us
Rings forth through the ages and into all lands.
Divine song ever rising in descants surprising
And beckons as we follow light into light.
Through struggle and trial, against all denial,
Praise God, who has lighted our paths in all ways.
All slumber and sadness cast off, and with gladness
To know more the Source and the End of our days.

Come All Who Love Learning
Imperial Brass
Meadows Vocal Performance Graduates

Come all who love learning, whose hearts still are yearning
To know more the Source and the End of our days.
All slumber and sadness cast off, and with gladness
Praise God, who has lighted our paths in all ways.
Through struggle and trial, against all denial,
The truth will at least lead us forth out of night.
God’s fire goes before us, God’s voice leads our chorus
And beckons as we follow light into light.
Divine song ever rising in descants surprising
Rings forth through the ages and into all lands.
It calls out and molds us, sustains and enfolds us
As we strive to do what creation demands.
Our hope unabating, we too are creating
With God, who seeks most lives of love, souls of mirth.
So let us be faithful, our hearts always grateful,
Our eyes fastened on a new heav’n, a new earth.

Tune: ASH GROVE
Words: Gary Hauk

May God bless us with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed
For those who suffer from pain, injustice, starvation, and war,
So that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe
We can make a difference in the world,
So that we can do what others claim cannot be done.