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*Commencement Weekend  
May 3-4, 2019  
Baccalaureate Service  
Rev. Bret Layton*

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Bret Layton came to faith in Christ at the young age of 7. Throughout his childhood years, he always knew that God's hand was upon his life for the purpose of loving and serving others. In August of 1983, at the age of 18 and at a camp meeting service, he fully surrendered his all to the Lordship of Christ and set out on the pathway of full time Christian service. Just a few short months after he answered the call to preach and preached his very first sermon.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Christian Ministries at Ohio Christian University in 1987, he began full time ministry as a Youth/Music Pastor in Ironton OH, at the First Church of the Nazarene. In 1989, while serving in the position and role, he enjoyed the honor and privilege of being ordained in the Church of the Nazarene.

At the age of 25, in 1990, he began his ministry as a lead pastor and served 5 different congregations in Georgia, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia over the next 26 years. In 2016, he joined the Executive Team at World Gospel Mission, in Marion, IN where he served as Vice-President of Advancement and Church Relations and then on August 2, 2018, he was elected District Superintendent of the West Virginia South District Church of the Nazarene.

Bret is a highly enthusiastic and relational leader and loves people of all ages and cultures. His personal passions and desires are to recognize and cultivate the potential of others so that they can achieve their fullest capacity as kingdom influencers and world changers.

Bret and his wife, Beth, will celebrate 33 years of marriage this summer. They have 2 grown and married daughters, Madison and Morgan, who are both graduates of MVNU.

Bret and Beth reside in Charleston, WV.