

## **EASTERN UNIVERSITY**

### **Honorary Doctorate Policy and Procedure**

**Approved by the Academic Affairs Committee, February 6, 2009**

Eastern University recognizes honorary degrees as one of higher education's most prestigious recognitions. As such, Eastern grants Honorary Doctorates to individuals of eminent reputation, character and achievement. Recognizing Eastern's particular mission to society and the church, the University's criteria for considering candidates for an Honorary Doctorate include:

1. Those who have, by example of their lives, exemplified *faith, reason and justice* in living out their Christian faith
2. Those who have exhibited outstanding leadership and service to the church and / or civic and cultural affairs
3. Those who have made significant contributions to the University and / or to the larger community

A candidate for an Honorary Doctorate will be an outstanding model of a life well lived for our academic community, especially for our students. The force of their life choices will have brought honor and glory to God. In addition, individuals chosen for this award honor Eastern University by accepting this degree, and in so doing show their agreement with Eastern's interpretation of living out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

While generally speaking a prospective honorary doctorate recipient may be sought in the global community, University alumni, faculty, administration and friends who reflect the above criteria may also be recommended. Degrees will not be awarded to persons who are currently serving the university as faculty members, or administrative officials.

Typically, a recipient of an honorary doctorate is also invited to give a Commencement address. However, the University does not interpret that an honorary degree must be given at each commencement. There may be cases where a Commencement speaker is not granted an honorary doctorate, or an honorary doctorate recipient is not invited / available to give a Commencement address. In the later case an appropriate ceremony may be planned in honor of the recipient. The number of degrees granted for any one commencement will usually not be more than one with two normally being considered a maximum. This number will be adhered to except in extraordinary circumstances.

The University will not award degrees merely in anticipation of a favor for the institution, nor as a reward for favors done to the University, nor as a result of pressure from outside sources. This does not imply that a degree may not be awarded to a benefactor of the University, but it does imply that service to the University must not override other criteria.

Selection of persons for the reception of these degrees will be made according to the above criteria and the following procedure:

1. Recommendations must be made in writing to the President of the University stating the achievements of the person recommended and the reasons why this

- person should be considered for recognition. Where possible, recommendations should include a copy of the candidate's current CV.
2. The President will receive and forward appropriate nominations (including a current CV) to the Office of the Provost and the Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees for action at an upcoming Committee meeting.
  3. Subsequent to approval by the Academic Affairs Committee the recommendation will go to the full Board of Trustees. The Trustees have final authority to grant / deny recommendations.

The rights and privileges afforded to Honorary Doctorate recipients will generally conform to those outlined by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (see also *Academic Ceremonies: A Handbook of Traditions and Protocol*. Harris, April A., CASE, 2005)

Approved:

Academic Affairs Committee, February 6, 2009  
Board of Trustees, February 7, 2009

Office of the Provost  
February 7, 2009