

University of Portland Introduces Black President

Historic selection marks two firsts

In a history-making announcement, the University of Portland has appointed Dr. Robert Kelly as its 21st president, the first lay president and the first African American to lead the Catholic university in its over 121 years of existence.

Kelly most recently served as vice president, special assistant and clinical professor at Loyola University in Baltimore, Md. He was introduced to the University of Portland community Tuesday on the school's north Portland campus.

Throughout its existence, UP has been led by a Holy Cross priest from its governing body, the Congregation of Holy Cross. But when announcing its search for a new president in August, the university's Board of Regents committed to an open, national search with the goal of attracting a diverse field of qualified candidates including lay people outside of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Kelly was described as a devout Catholic who will em-



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brace and promote the school's Catholic identity. In prepared remarks, he expressed being humbled by the historic nature of his selection.

"I come to this position after much discernment and prayer, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. I walk in the footsteps of so many wonderful Holy Cross priests and brothers who have preceded me in their service on The Bluff. And I pledge to the Congregation, and to all who call UP home, my commitment to ensuring that our Catholic,

Holy Cross mission endures and thrives," he said.

Kelly brings an extensive academic pedigree and accomplished career in higher education. He holds a PhD in philosophy, education policy, planning and administration from the University of Maryland; a master's degree in higher education and student affairs administration from the University of Vermont; and a bachelor's degree in arts and political science from Loyola University Maryland.

The Pacific Northwest is already familiar territory for Kelly after having served as vice president for student development and adjunct professor of education at Seattle University. His resume of other academic leadership positions also includes chief of staff to the president of Union College; associate dean of students, and assistant to the vice president for student affairs at the University of Vermont; and assistant director of residential life at Colgate University.

Kelly succeeds Rev. Mark L. Poorman, who served for 10 years at UP—seven as its 20th president. Poorman has returned to teaching, research, and pastoral duties at the University of Notre Dame.

The Week in Review

Hate Speech at Synagogue

Congregation Beth Israel, the historic synagogue in northwest Portland, was vandalized with threatening hate speech over the weekend. Someone used yellow paint to write a Nazi slogan on the building. There were also burn marks on a synagogue door.

Unarmed Officers Wanted

Mayor Ted Wheeler indicated last week he is planning to propose spending \$3.9 million to add 28 unarmed public safety specialists to the Police Bureau. Wheeler said the goal is to free up sworn police to handle higher priority calls.

Abortion Rights in Peril

Chief Justice John Roberts on Tuesday confirmed the authenticity of a leaked draft opinion suggesting the Supreme Court may be poised to overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade case that legalized abortion nationwide. President Joe Biden said Tuesday that the "basic fairness and the stability of our law demand" that the court not overturn Roe.

Stop Violence Rally

A Stop the Violence rally was held downtown, Saturday, the day after Portland Police responded to four shootings in two hours the night before. "We are concerned about our city and the gun violence," said Pastor Corey Pritchett of

Worldwide Deliverance Church. "Part of ending gun violence is dealing with the anger and dealing with the hurt in peoples' hearts."

Players Use Racist Words

Clatskanie High School was placed on probation for one year after state athletic officials determined the school's girls basketball players "more likely than not" used racist language against members of the De La Salle team from northeast Portland during a game in Clatskanie last December, officials reported.

Republican Rally Attacked

Sandy Mayor and Republican gubernatorial candidate Stan Pulliam says he was attacked by members of the far left group Antifa and tried to prove the point with video showing a group of individuals dressed in all black with covered faces who attacked them with smoke bombs, spray paint and shouts of anger during a campaign event downtown on Saturday.

Menthol Cigarettes Ban

The Food and Drug Administration proposed on Thursday a new rule to ban menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars for the protection of public health. It's estimated that about 36 percent of all cigarette users smoke menthols in the United States and a disproportionate number are people of color.

SAVE THE DATE



What is "The Wellness Event"?
#ConnectBlackVancouver is a wellness event that centers the holistic health of African American communities in Vancouver, WA.

AACC Presents
THE WELLNESS EVENT
#ConnectBlackVancouver

Please pre-register using this link:



SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2022
LUEPKE CENTER • 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
1009 E McLoughlin Blvd, Vancouver, WA 98663