

HONORARY DEGREE—APRIL 17, 2023

## Monte C. Sahlin

Doctor of Divinity

Monte C. Sahlin has served as an educator, pastor, researcher, writer and leader. He attended La Sierra College for his undergraduate degree in theology and while there founded the Adventist Collegiate Taskforce (ACT), a homeland missions equivalent to the student missionaries abroad program beginning at that time on many Adventist college campuses. He holds a master's degree in community mental health from Windsor University and pursued Doctor of Ministry studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, United Theological Seminary, Andrews University and Hartford Seminary. Over the course of his career, Sahlin has fulfilled many important roles and impacted multiple lives and communities through his dedication to service, research and positive change.

Sahlin was born into the fourth generation of a dedicated Seventh-day Adventist family. Originally from Saint Joseph, Missouri, he moved to Southern California with his parents when he was 5 years old.

He began his career in the communication field, first as an assistant communication director for Voice of Prophecy in Glendale, California, and later as communications coordinator for Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland. Eventually, he took on various directorial roles, working in urban ministries in Washington D.C. and Massachusetts as well as in Pennsylvania, where he also was a district pastor and church planter for the Pennsylvania Conference. Sahlin went on to serve as senior pastor for two churches in Pennsylvania and Ohio. He has also worked in faculty positions for Pennsylvania State University and Eastern University and went on to teach and mentor students within the Doctor of Ministry program at Andrews University from 2007–2016.

Sahlin held administrative roles within the Ohio Conference and the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including Church Ministries director for the NAD, executive director of Adventist Community Services, ADRA director for the NAD, Inner City Program coordinator, and a research officer for the NAD from 1987 to 1998. He then served as vice president for Creative Ministries in the Columbia Union Conference until 2007 before returning to the Ohio Conference as director of Research and Development and coordinator of Metro Ministries. In 2014 he retired from denominational employment.

In addition to his regular employment, Sahlin has spent much of his life volunteering in his communities through participation on councils, boards and committees. He contributed to many areas of need, such as social action projects, disaster aid and interfaith research and served as executive secretary of the Interfaith Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership from his retirement until 2015. In 1995, he received an Outstanding Public Service Award from the U.S. Federal Government.

Sahlin is also a prolific writer. He has had more than 25 books published, including “One Minute Witness,” “Adventist Congregations Today” and “Mission in Metropolis.” Sahlin has authored numerous journal articles and research monographs covering topics like mission strategies, world surveys on member beliefs and practices, evangelism, ministry, and Adventist culture and communities. Over the course of his career, he directed more than 130 survey research projects for local churches.

For his broad-ranging leadership in the church and the community, and in particular his exemplary research that has deepened the church's understanding of its mission, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Monte C. Sahlin with the degree Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*.