

James J. North, Jr.

John Nevins Andrews Medallion

August 4, 2019



This morning the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is James J. North Jr., whose dedication to chaplaincy and teaching has distinguished him among his colleagues.

North graduated with an AB in theology from Atlantic Union College in 1960 and an MDiv from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in 1963. In 1989 he received his DMin from Andrews University, as well. North also received chaplaincy training from the U.S. Air Force Chaplain School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

Early in his career, North worked as an associate pastor in Oregon for three years. Following this, in 1966, North became a chaplain for the U.S. Air Force. For the next 20 years he served at a number of locations including Vietnam, California, Virginia, Germany and Texas. In 1986, after his 20-year stint in the U.S. Air Force, he retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

North began his career at Andrews University in 1986 as a chaplain for Adventist Information Ministries (AIM). He soon became an assistant professor of religion for the Department of Religion & Biblical Languages and later an associate professor of pastoral care and chaplaincy for the Department of Christian Ministry at the Seminary where he served until 2013. When he was not teaching, North held several other positions including those of advisor for various clubs and forums, chair and member of numerous committees, director for the Seminary Chorus and the Seminary Chaplaincy Program, University ombudsperson and a Seminary Student Life representative. He has been a faculty for over 25 years and has lived in the Andrews' community for the past 33 years.

A family man, North is married to Audrey and they are celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary. From that union are four adult children – three daughters and one son. The oldest daughter is the deputy general counsel for the Veteran Affairs, in Washington DC. The twin daughters have careers in the financial sector. And their only son, following in his father's footsteps, is a pastor. He was just appointed associate pastor of the Oakwood University Church, for youth, young adult and social media.

Since his retirement, North has taught several courses for the Seminary as a contract professor. Most recently he taught classes in both Kenya and Nigeria. North served as a mentor to professors of chaplaincy and still periodically assists during Tuesday chapels by playing the organ.

In his spare time, North's love for music drives him to compose musical pieces. He loves to spend time in nature, engaged in photography.

For his dedicated service and commitment to chaplaincy, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present James J. North Jr. with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.