



For Immediate Release
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New President Appointed to Lead Our Lady of the Elms

AKRON, Ohio (June 6, 2016) – The Our Lady of the Elms Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Deborah Farquhar Jones as the school’s new President effective July 1. She will succeed Dr. Ruth Friedman who has served as Chief Administrative Officer since 2014.

“The Dominican community of the Elms welcomes Deborah,” said Sr. Maria Ciriello, OP. “She brings energy and commitment to our mission and a passionate belief in the greater breadth of educational opportunities which an all-girls school can create.”

“I am honored to join Our Lady of the Elms and its talented faculty and staff, intellectually engaged students and the families who have invested in the lifelong gift of Catholic education,” said Farquhar Jones. “As the Elms prepares for its Centennial milestone, I look forward to working with the school community, its devoted alumnae, the Board of Trustees, and the Dominican Sisters of Peace to continue to advance the mission of the Elms - to educate girls and young women to listen openly, evaluate wisely, speak bravely, lead justly, and serve compassionately.”

Farquhar Jones has served as Assistant Head of School at Laurel School in Shaker Heights since 2012. She provided administrative leadership for all-school fiscal operations and strategic planning, and executed all fundraising and development initiatives. She began her career at Laurel School in 2002 as Director of Development and External Affairs. During her tenure, more than \$50 million was committed in new gifts and pledges to Laurel. In two of the past eight academic years, during some of the most challenging times in U.S. financial history, Laurel’s fundraising total reached a record \$9 million per year.

Prior to her service at Laurel, Farquhar Jones served in several development positions, including Director of Development, at Hiram College. She had oversight responsibility for annual

giving and major gift activity for capital projects within Hiram's \$50.7 million Sesquicentennial Campaign.

"After an extensive search conducted by the Our Lady of the Elms Board of Trustees, we are thrilled Deborah will join the school at such an important time in its already storied history," said Board President Diane Evans. "Deborah brings much enthusiasm along with the strong leadership qualities we were looking for in the new President of Our Lady of the Elms. She is a woman of deep faith who will serve as an excellent role model for our students in the Catholic tradition."

ABOUT THE ELMS

Our Lady of the Elms School, an independent, Catholic school rooted in the Dominican tradition, educates girls and young women to listen openly, evaluate wisely, speak bravely, lead justly, and serve compassionately. The Elms elementary school is a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School.

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