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Dr. Weems Is Elected New President, Special Convocation Called Friday

Faculty, staff and students will meet Meredith College's sixth president, Dr. John Edgar Weems, 39, at a special 10 a.m. convocation Friday, October 15, in Jones Auditorium.

This will be the first opportunity the college community will have to officially meet the newly-elected president. Dr. Weems, vice-president for finance and administration at Middle Tennessee State University, was elected president by the Board of Trustees about 8 p.m. Thursday.

Middle Tennessee State University is a co-educational, state-controlled, general purpose institution, located in the Heart of Tennessee, 30 miles from Nashville.

Dr. Weems will assume his new office on Jan. 1, 1972 and will continue in his present capacity at Middle Tennessee until late December. Dr. Allen Burris, vice-president and academic dean at Meredith, will continue to serve as acting president until Dr. Weems assumes his new post.

Dr. L. M. Massey, chairman of the Presidential Selection Committee, will introduce Dr. Weems during the convocation. Dr. Massey presented the recommendation of his committee to the Board of Trustees Thursday night and the Trustees elected Dr. Weems president of Meredith.

C. C. Cameron, chairman of the Board of Trustees, made the announcement of Dr. Weems' election at a news conference following the Board meeting.

"We feel fortunate in securing a man of Dr. Weems' experience and expertise in the field of higher education who can continue to lead Meredith toward academic excellence, financial stability and service," Cameron said.

Dr. Weems and his family were present during the announcement of his election.

"I am very impressed with the tradition of academic excellence at Meredith," Dr. Weems said following his election,



Dr. John E. Weems
president-elect of Meredith

and "I am particularly impressed with the high calibre of students here and the obvious dedication of the faculty."

The new president said he was "confident that with the continued enthusiastic leadership of the Board of Trustees, Administration, and other constituents, Meredith will continue to be strong and viable."

Before becoming vice-president for finance and administration at Middle Tennessee State University, Dr. Weems served as dean of admissions and records and instituted a system of computer registration that has been recommended as the prototype for implementation in each of Tennessee's state supported institutions of higher education.

Dr. Weems received his B.S., M.A., and D.Ed. degrees from George Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn. His undergraduate majors were economics, business administration and education. Dr. Weems' masters degree majors were administration of public education and

business education and his doctorate degree major was administration of higher education.

His doctoral dissertation dealt primarily with institutional research designed for making sound administrative decisions in higher education.

Born in Nashville, Tenn., Dr. Weems attended the Nashville public schools and played varsity sports.

After receiving his undergraduate degree in 1953, he joined the Proctor and Gamble Company as one of seven men from throughout the United States selected to enter their Executive Training Program.

Dr. Weems left Proctor and Gamble in 1955 to complete his Master of Arts degree and then taught business administration, economics and finance at Atlantic Christian College (ACC), in Wilson. While at ACC, the student body elected him a member of the Student Life Advisory Committee, which was the governing body of the college.

In June, 1957, Dr. Weems became director of admissions and placement at Atlantic Christian and in 1958 his duties were expanded to include student personnel services.

Dr. Weems became dean of admissions and records at Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1959 and dean of admissions and records at Middle Tennessee in 1961. He was promoted to dean of administration at Middle Tennessee and later to vice-president for finance and administration.

His current duties at Middle Tennessee include responsibility for all areas of college administration, other than the faculty and student personnel divisions.

Dr. Weems is past chairman of Deacons and a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn. and he and Mrs. Weems have three children: John Mark, 17; David Van, 12; and Nancy Carol, 10. Mrs. Weems is the former Frankie Gooch of Chapel Hill, Tenn.