

*The following message was shared with the Wesleyan community today from John B. Frank '78, P '12, Chair of the Wesleyan Board of Trustees*

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To the Wesleyan Community:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to announce the extension of President Michael S. Roth's contract with Wesleyan University through the summer of 2026.

Michael has been an extraordinary steward of this university. His leadership has guided Wesleyan through the perils of an international economic crisis and a global pandemic; he has encouraged innovation while keeping the principles of a pragmatic liberal education in the forefront of everything we do. Building on discussions with faculty, staff and students, Michael has developed a vision for Wesleyan that builds on our rich tradition of academic exploration, and a new strategic plan is being finalized that will take us through the celebration of our bicentennial in 2031. The overarching goals of the plan remain threefold—to enhance Wesleyan's distinctive educational program, continue to build our reputation as a leader in pragmatic liberal education, and strengthen our sustainable economic model while enhancing access and diversifying revenue. Michael is leading a collective effort to increase equitable access while strengthening our interdisciplinary approach to subjects across the breadth of our curricular offerings and to ensure that the student experience is a resource for a lifetime of learning and engagement.

A significant dimension of Michael's and the Board's planning is focused on campus improvements. Those on campus know very well that the university is going through a period of physical renewal; buildings are being renovated and new spaces created that will allow for more collaborative working environments. Many have admired the new Center for Film Studies and have seen the exciting work being done on an expanded Public Affairs Center as well as a new art gallery located between Olin Library and the PAC. Wesleyan is also finalizing plans to replace Hall-Atwater with an expansive life sciences building to be located between Church Street and Lawn Avenue. As part of that project, the historic 1928 Shanklin science building will be preserved and restored as a home for the College of the Environment and other interdisciplinary programs. We are fortunate that Michael will be with us to lead these critical projects to completion.

Much is happening that promises a bright future for Wesleyan, but Michael will need our continued support to realize that vision. As an administrator, a teacher, scholar, writer and leader, Michael has served our university with great distinction. The Board is thrilled that he will stay on as president for another five-year term.

Best regards,  
John B. Frank '78, P '12  
Chair of the Board of Trustees