Presiding Bishop
Vice Principal
Registrar
Deans
Members of Convocation
Matriculants
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Methodist University College Ghana (MUCG) Council, Management staff and Students, I warmly welcome you to our 3rd Matriculation.

Presiding Bishop, for this January admissions, 2015/2016 academic year, 602 candidates applied for admission to MUCG. From this, 527 candidates were offered admission to pursue various programmes of study. Four hundred (400) have accepted their admissions and registered for their various courses. The figures per each campus are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dansoman Campus</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tema Campus</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wenchi Campus</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>409</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As you well know, the matriculation ceremony is regarded as a rite of passage of the newly admitted students to full junior membership of the University College. We are happy to take them through this rite.

Presiding Bishop, in the last three years, MUCG has experienced a serious decline in the numbers of students admitted to the University College for various courses. The decline is attributable to a number of causative factors which include (i) poor performance of candidates in the WASSCE/SSSCE examinations (ii) increase in the number of accredited private University Colleges (iii) increase in the number of public Universities and public University Satellite campuses (iv) more stringent requirements and conditions demanded by mentor public Universities and NAB/NCTE and (v) financial constraints on the part of students.

MUCG has tried to come up with interventions including a massive recruitment drive to try and shore up our student numbers but we are not out of the woods yet. We will continue to come up with more interventions including the offering of more attractive and relevant academic programmes. This is a big challenge but we are optimistic that we shall begin to see a rise in student numbers in the years ahead. It is, perhaps, pertinent to mention that in spite of the decline in student numbers, the foreign students’ intake has gone up.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks, once again, the support MUCG has been receiving from the Methodist Church, particularly in the present time of financial difficulty. However, my prayer is that the church will mainstream the University College as an important project of the church rather than an addendum to the church. This will ensure a sincere and unbridled commitment of the church to the growth of the University College.

I dare say that the establishment of MUCG was visionary. It would therefore be in the better interest of the University College if it was regarded as a corporate social responsibility flagship project of the Methodist Church Ghana, of which each true member of the church, clergy and laity alike, should be proud.
We would appreciate continued education of the entire membership of the church on the need to uphold the vision.

Now let me turn to the matriculants. The Matriculation Oath you have just taken is binding on all of you throughout your stay at MUCG. MUCG is a faith-based institution; consequently, we are guided by Christian principles. We allow our students to exercise their academic and other freedoms, however, they are expected to do so within the confines of our University rules and regulations as well as Christian values.

At the Methodist University College Ghana, our teaching methods are specially crafted to equip you with critical thinking abilities. This will enhance your creativity and innovativeness in applying knowledge and skills acquired in the lecture room to solving practical problems.

We hold in high esteem professionalism and quality of learning and teaching. For this reason, we have in place a Quality Assurance Unit which ensures that the highest academic standards are set and maintained at all times. We give our students an opportunity to assess the quality of teaching of their lecturers at the end of every semester. Lecturers who are rated low are counselled and encouraged to do better next time. Those who are rated high are commended and encouraged to maintain the high quality of teaching or even improve upon it.

You will be required to take what we refer to as University Required Courses (URC’s) such as Ethics, Communication Skills and Contemporary Issues, among others. All students are required to take these courses and pass each at a grade of ‘C’ or better. Please, take these courses very seriously because they form an integral part of your programme of study and count a lot towards your success in the University College. They also help you to educate yourself beyond your chosen programme of study and widen your scope of thinking.
Academic work demands reading, research and good study skills. To make this possible for you, MUCG has provided on all its campuses good automated libraries with modern facilities. At the Dansoman Campus, our libraries are located on the premises of the Female Hostel and on the third floor of the West Wing of the Faculty Building. We have good libraries at the Tema and Wenchi Campuses as well.

We have an Academic Support Services Unit (ASSU) that handles complaints of students of our Evening and Weekend Programmes on academic and administrative issues after our main administrative offices are closed at 5.00 p.m and at the weekends. The offices of ASSU are located on the ground floor of the North Wing of the Faculty Building.

Our Students’ Handbook makes the rules and regulations of the University College readily available to students; all students are, therefore, required to have copies. Those who have not yet obtained their copies should contact the Academic Affairs Office for them. You must endeavour to read and obey the rules and regulations as ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse for breaking them.

You were briefed on the rules and regulations and other related matters during your orientation, but let me just highlight one or two here. As a faith-based institution, we are very firm when it comes to issues of morality. You must avoid all forms of indecency and go strictly by the MUCG Dress Code. Remember, though, your dressing shows your outward appearance, it also depicts who you are inside. Our ladies must not wear tight-fitting and transparent dresses, sleeveless tops and dresses having bare backs or expose their breasts and stomachs. All skirts and straight dresses must fall well below knee-level and not above it. The Otto Pfister way of wearing trousers by men is strictly forbidden on our campuses.

In keeping with the MUCG Vision to promote and develop academic excellence, spirituality, morality and service within the Ghanaian society, we have made provision within our academic schedules, for Worship Services to help shape your spirituality and nourish your souls for victorious Christian living. On the Dansoman Campus, Worship
Services are held on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m to 12.00 noon. Days and times for such services on other Campuses will be made known to you.

A cursory glance at any of MUCG’s campuses will tell you that here, we keep our environment clean. You must ensure that you do not litter around. Also keep noise levels at their barest minimum so that there can be a serene atmosphere for studies.

Finally, I would like to share and inspire you with the Words of the first stanza of our College Anthem: “God bless Methodist University; Spirituality, high morals, the essence of our Mission. Our Motto is Excellence and Service to God and Man; to reach out and spread the Word, the dreams of our dear Founders. May it grow with great distinction; May it shine beyond our borders; Thanks to God our strength and shield; Be it Christ-centered forever.”

I wish you a pleasant stay on whichever campus you are. Thank you all for coming.

God richly bless you.