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DR. NORMAN LAMM IS THIRD PRESIDENT OF YU

Wednesday, August 4, 9 a.m. . . . The President's Suite on the fifth floor of Furst Hall came to life. A vibrancy of actions, motion, ringing phones, footsteps reverberated through the hallways, sending waves of movement and energy throughout the YU complex. Dr. Norman Lamm, 48 years old, American born, alumnus, moved into his post as third President of Yeshiva University.

Major changes in any institution just don't happen overnight: months of planning, days and nights of work, and countless hours of effort went into choosing a new chief executive officer and preparing for his taking office.

On July 13 the Presidential Search Committee delivered its report to the Board of Trustees as charged. On August 3 the Board's Presidential Search Committee in turn reviewed the University-wide Committee's recommendation at a special meeting. After its approval, the full Board voted unanimously to elect Dr. Lamm President.

"Yeshiva University, with its 7,000 students, needs the vigor of mind and spirit of Dr. Lamm," said Max J. Etra, chairman of the Board of Trustees, in making the announcement. "Of the people under serious consideration, all men of achievement, intellect, and accomplishment, the Committee leaned towards a younger, dynamic leader who would provide long term leadership for the institution and who would be able to confront the pressing problems of higher education today.

"We enter our tenth decade with the conviction that with the help of the Almighty our new President will continue in the great tradition of his distinguished predecessors, Drs. Bernard Revel and Samuel Belkin, and guide the University to new heights of service and excellence," Mr. Etra said.

Introducing Dr. Lamm

Dr. Norman Lamm brings to office the vigor of Jewish tradition nurtured in American soil and a sensitivity to YU's strengths and needs gained as an

alumnus and faculty member. He combines a profound scholarship in Torah, philosophy, arts, humanities, and sciences — as a chemist turned rabbi — with the ability to interpret modern problems and concerns in the light of Talmudic law.

"As a former student, a teacher, a parent, and one who has spoken to many YU students, I have a first-hand familiarity with the variety of YU's programs and divisions, allowing me to see the University in different dimensions," said Dr. Lamm shortly after taking office. "At YU I have three major constituencies to serve: the YU family, the Jewish community, and the nation.

"We are experiencing a shifting of focus from a period of intensive building to one of reaching out for more people and more involvement from people through our programs. On the academic level, we will strive for a still higher level of excellence, reviewing and intensifying the existing efforts and creating and innovating into new areas of scholarship, education, and outreach.

"YU has played, and must continue to play, a large role in leadership training for the Jewish community. We have witnessed dynamic developments recently in the life of that community. For example, there is the acceptance of day school education in America, which had to overcome much antagonism to gain acceptance, until today it serves as a model for the whole community. Likewise, there are more goals ahead of us that create a special responsibility on the part of the University to play an even greater role in reaching out to the general community.

"While there has been erosion on the peripheries of the Jewish community as a result of intermarriage and assimilation, there has also been an intensification on the part of the committed. This core group will enable us to halt the erosion on the periphery, and can aid in providing the educational resources to make the community aware of the rich intellectual and spiritual resources of our people.

"The tasks to which I have been summoned are

awesome. They cannot be accomplished by any one person alone. I shall need the help and support — and, yes, the prayers — of all my friends, all friends of Yeshiva University, and all members of the University family," Dr. Lamm concluded.

He also expressed his appreciation for the outpouring of good wishes from throughout the University and the world. Letters of congratulations, including messages from Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister, and Shlomo Goren, Chief Rabbi of Israel, greeted the new President on his first days on the job.

The new YU President became a national media event: Dr. Lamm was accorded "Man in the News" treatment in the *New York Times*; was interviewed for a feature in *Time* magazine and by the Associated Press; and appeared with Roger Sharp on WABC-TV's "Eyewitness News." A "Close-Up" feature on Dr. Lamm appeared in the *New York Post*. He was interviewed by a number of reporters for the leading Anglo-Jewish and Yiddish newspapers and was featured on Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum's series on WINS radio and the CBS radio series "World of Religion." And coming up, on November 7, the day of his formal investiture, Dr. Lamm will be the guest of Dr. Ormand Drake on the CBS television series "Way to Go."

Native of Brooklyn

Born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, December 19, 1927, the son of Samuel and Pearl Baumol Lamm, Dr. Lamm received his elementary and high school education at the Yeshiva Torah Vadaath in Brooklyn. He then spent a year of intensive Torah study with his revered grandfather, a distinguished scholar. In 1949 he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude from YC, where he majored in chemistry and was class valedictorian. During Israel's War of Independence in 1948, as a student at the College, he worked on a secret munitions research project for the struggling state, headed by Dr. Ernst D. Bergmann, who later became head of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

He continued his studies in chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. The decision on his life's choice, whether to become a scientist or a rabbi, was made by Dr. Lamm with the consultation and advice of Dr. Belkin, who was then his rebbe. In 1951 he was ordained at the affiliated RIETS. He received the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Jewish philosophy in 1966 from BRGS. His was the unique distinction of having been both ordained and guided in his work for his doctorate by Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik.

Dr. Lamm graduated Yeshiva College during one of the most exciting periods in the institution's

history. Commencement fell during "Dedication Week," which featured several special conferences and events marking the physical and academic growth of YU. It was during this period in 1949 that the School of Education and Community Research (to evolve into FGS), and the Institute for Advanced Rabbinic Research (Kollet) were dedicated, together with four new buildings at the Main Center. Accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities was achieved then, and YC introduced its pre-medical studies in anticipation of the opening of a medical school.

While Dr. Lamm was receiving his bachelor's degree summa cum laude at the exercises, other classmates honored with him were Rabbi Julius Parnes, *rosh yeshiva*, who graduated magna cum laude, and Dr. Leo Landman, a cum laude graduate, who was to become a member of the faculty and administrator at BRGS. They were presented for their degrees by Dr. Moses L. Isaacs, dean of YC. It was one of the many outstanding commencements at YU. Rabbi Menachem Brayer received his master's and was to later become head of the FGS Jewish Studies Department. Rabbi Michael Bernstein was awarded the Ph.D. and is now a Revel faculty member. Rabbi Meir Felman also received the Ph.D. at the ceremonies and has become one of YU's outstanding active alumni. Dr. Lamm was the valedictorian and won prizes for excellence in Hebrew language and literature and for having the highest rank in his college studies.

YU awarded honorary doctorates to seven outstanding individuals, the largest such contingent so honored up until 1949, which included Dr. James B. Conant, president of Harvard University, who delivered the commencement address. Dr. Israel Miller, then rabbi of the Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center, delivered the invocation at the exercises, and RIETS Board member Rabbi Herman Zwillenberg, the benediction.

Among those ordained at RIETS with Dr. Lamm in 1951 were Rabbis Parnes and Landman, Herbert Bomzer, Meyer Feldblum, Israel Paleyeff, Charles Spirn, Moshe Weiss, and many others who have served or are serving in communities from coast to coast and in Israel. At a Semicha Convocation held in 1953 Dr. Joseph B. Soloveitchik spoke to the *musmachim*.

YU had become a major New York and national academic presence when Dr. Lamm received his Ph.D. in 1966. His dissertation was "The Concept of Torah Lishmah in the Works of R. Hayyim of Volozhin." Among his doctoral classmates was Dr. Abraham N. Zuroff who received the D.H.L. and who played a major role in the YU high schools for a quarter of a century. U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield

was an honorary degree recipient at the ceremonies and delivered one of the most widely reported commencement addresses in YU history on U.S.—China relations.

Dr. Lamm was appointed to YU's faculty in 1959, serving first as philosophy instructor and rising through the ranks. In June 1966 he was appointed Erna and Jakob Michael professor of Jewish philosophy at the University. In addition, he served as visiting professor of Judaic studies at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York in 1974-75.

Dr. Lamm has been spiritual leader of The Jewish Center in New York City, affiliated with the Center since 1958. He served as rabbi of Congregation Kodimoh in Springfield, Mass. in 1954-58, and as assistant rabbi at New York City's Kehilath Jeshurun in 1952-53.

Well-Known Author

Dr. Lamm is widely recognized for his writings and discourses on interpretations of Jewish law in relation to problems involving science, technology, and philosophy in today's society.

A man of faith who has written sensitively of doubt, he has also written extensively on Talmudic law, especially in comparison with American constitutional law.

His work on self-incrimination has been quoted in landmark decisions of the United States Supreme Court, once by the late Chief Justice Earl Warren, and again by former Justice William O. Douglas. He has testified as an expert on Jewish law and privacy before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and his testimony has been published in *The Congressional Record*.

In 1970, during a half-year sabbatical spent teaching and lecturing in Israel, Dr. Lamm proposed a solution to the recurring religious crises concerning Sabbath observance. "The Rosh Hodesh Plan," as it is known, was submitted to the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, and evoked much comment and discussion throughout Israel and abroad.

Dr. Lamm had been offered three school presidencies in the U.S. and Israel and two Chief Rabbinate positions, but chose to remain in New York with his alma mater.

His major academic work, *Torah Lishmah*, deals with the religious philosophy of the Mitnaggenim, opponents of the Hasidim, in eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe.

Another of his many works, *The Royal Reach: Discourses on the Jewish Tradition and the World Today*, deals with a variety of themes, offering Jewish viewpoints on such issues as violence, law and order, space exploration, and parent-child

relationships in the contemporary world. His *Faith and Doubt* deals with such subjects as religious doubt, privacy in law and theology, the moral revolution, the religious implications of life on other planets, ecology in law and theology, and a Jewish ethic of leisure.

In another book, *A Hedge of Roses: Jewish Insights into Marriage and Married Life*, he calls for a return to traditional rules regarding marital sex as the only means for reversing a trend of an increasing number of failed marriages. Since 1966, when this work first appeared, it has been published in seven editions, three in the U.S. and one in England, and translations in Hebrew (two editions) and Portuguese. Dr. Lamm is also co-editor of *The Leo Jung Jubilee Volume* and *A Treasury of Tradition*. His most recent book, *The Good Society: Jewish Ethics in Action*, spells out the duties of the individual, the family, and society.

Among the many subjects Dr. Lamm has written about, for both English and Hebrew scholarly and popular magazines, are "Caught Napping," an essay published by Yavneh; "Our Dependence Upon Israel's Independence," published by The Israel Aliyah Center Inc.; "God is Alive: A Jewish Reaction to a Recent Theological Controversy," *Jewish Life*; "The Lunar Perspective," *Jewish Life*; "Takhlit: Teaching for Lasting Outcomes," address to Pedagogic Conference of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, 1970; "Modern Orthodoxy's Identity Crisis," *Jewish Life*; "The Talmud and the Tapes," *Sh'ma*; "Judaism and the Modern Attitude to Homosexuality," 1974 *Encyclopedia Judaica Yearbook*. He has contributed learned articles to such journals as *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Social Studies*, *Commentary*, *Tradition*, *Judaism*, *Hadarom*, *Hapardes*, *Hadoar*, and others.

Honors and Awards

Dr. Lamm is listed in *Who's Who in the East*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Men of Achievement*, *Dictionary of International Biography*, *Who's Who in World Jewry*, *Israel's Who's Who*, *Who's Who in Religion*, and the *Encyclopedia Judaica*.

He received the Abramowitz-Zeitlin Award for Religious Literature in Jerusalem in 1972. The same year he was designated an "Outstanding Educator of the Year." He was presented the Bernard Revel Memorial Award for Religion and Religious Education by the YC Alumni Association in 1974.

A member of The Jewish Center Lecture Bureau, Dr. Lamm has been on the faculty of the 92nd Street Y.M.H.A. Adult Education Program, where he taught Talmud, and on the faculty of the B'nai B'rith Institute.

Dr. Lamm has traveled widely, lecturing in nine countries on five continents. In 1961 he spent a

month in India and Pakistan on a special religious mission to the ancient Jewish communities of those countries. In 1964 he toured South Africa for one month, lecturing on behalf of Jewish education. He also made trips to Australia and New Zealand in 1973, where he spent six weeks lecturing. In 1975 he participated in an international colloquium of political, scientific, and religious leaders of all faiths, held in Italy, which sought to find ways that faith could contribute towards solving the problems of poverty and hunger in the 20th century.

Dr. Lamm was founder and first editor of *Tradition*; general editor of *The Library of Jewish Law and Ethics* (Ktav Publishing Company); and a contributing editor of *Sh'ma*.

Community Leader

As a community leader Dr. Lamm is active in many educational and religious endeavors. He has been a Trustee of RIETS and is a member of the Board of Overseers of Bar Ilan University in Israel.

He is a director of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; a member of the Halakhah (Jewish Law) Commission of the Rabbinical Council of America; a charter member of the Board of Governors of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists; a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; vice president of Camp Morasha; a director of the Brith Milah Board; former chairman of the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry; and former chairman of the board of education of the Manhattan Day School. He is former chairman and currently a member of the Advisory Board of Yavneh (National Religious Jewish Students Association), and a member of the Advisory Board of the Jewish Association of College Youth.

Dr. Lamm was married on February 23, 1954 to the former Mindella Mehler, and they have four children—Chaye, 21, Joshua, 20, Shalom, 17, and Sara, 15. The Lamms live at 27 West 86th Street, Manhattan.

THE MAKING OF THE PRESIDENT

The process of electing Dr. Norman Lamm did not occur overnight. It was a long, arduous task which began last fall when Dr. Belkin announced his resignation as President. It prompted the institution of a governing body made up of vice presidents Dr. Israel Miller, who served as chairman, Dr. Ephraim Friedman, Dean David Mirsky and Dr. Sheldon E. Socol to deal with the day-to-day operation of the school. It also meant the establishment of a Presidential Search Committee, made up of 50 University officials, alumni, students, faculty, representatives of higher education and communal life, and friends. The Committee was charged by the

Board of Trustees with the responsibility of seeking a successor "worthy of Dr. Samuel Belkin and Dr. Bernard Revel," and with making its recommendation by June 30, 1976.

The Committee held its first meeting December 16, at which time Dean Jacob M. Rabinowitz, EMC, was chosen chairman. A smaller "working committee" was also set up to act as an initial screening group and aid the full committee in its four-stage process of search, screening, selecting, and presenting the nominees.

Since the first meeting last winter, 17 working committee meetings were held, and nine full committee meetings. They averaged three to four hours, with some lasting up to six, and "attendance was remarkably good," said Dean Rabinowitz. "We even had people commuting in from as far away as Cleveland and Philadelphia during the summer," he said.

One hundred responses and acknowledgments were received by the Committee to its solicitations. Institutions of higher education and honorary degree recipients from YU were canvassed for recommendations, as well as the entire University community. This process included open letters to alumni and students, said Dean Rabinowitz. Outside academicians were also involved, aiding in information gathering and evaluation.

Respondents to the solicitation process included two Nobel Laureates, presidents of major universities, and major Jewish communal leaders, he said.

57 different nominations were considered by the Committee. The process proceeded through four successive screening stages up until the June 30 deadline, according to Dean Rabinowitz.

The last formal meeting was held June 28, with a final session on July 13. The Committee then submitted its written recommendations to the Presidential Search Committee of the Board of Trustees, consisting of Max J. Etra, chairman; Abraham S. Guterman, Trustee; Ludwig Jesselson, Trustee; Max Stern, vice chairman of the Board; Herbert Tenzer, Trustee and chairman of the Board of RIETS; Jack D. Weiler, honorary chairman, Board of Overseers, AECOM; and Morris B. Abram, chairman of the Board of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

On August 3, the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dr. Lamm President. On August 4 Dr. Lamm took office.