



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2008

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**THE HYMN SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA NAMES
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PROFESSOR C. MICHAEL HAWN AS
FELLOW**

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C. Michael Hawn has been honored by the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada at its annual conference in Berkeley from July 13-17, 2008, by being designated as a Fellow of the Hymn Society. He was honored, according to David E. Eicher, President of the Hymn Society, in recognition of his international work as a troubadour of congregational song, and for his significant contributions to The Society.

Hawn is Professor of Sacred Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, where he has taught since 1992. Throughout his career Hawn has pursued a deeper understanding of global music and worship and has traveled extensively in this endeavor. His travels include visits to Nigeria, Kenya, Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Argentina, Brazil, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Japan, and Korea.

Hawn has written extensively for church music periodicals in the areas of church music education and hymnology. He contributes a weekly column to the United Methodist Reporter entitled "History of Hymns." Hawn has said "I want to teach the songs as extensions of prayer." This he has done to a wide variety of congregations throughout the United States and the world. He has proposed a broader range of responsibilities and possibilities for the individual who leads congregational singing, and suggests that in culturally conscious worship the musical presider be called the "enlivener." Because Michael Hawn has done so much to enliven congregational song and The Society, the Executive Committee of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada bestows upon him its highest honor and names him Fellow.

For further information about the Master of Sacred Music Program at Perkins School of Theology, please contact Teresa Rosado at teresar@smu.edu. To learn more about the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, contact Carl P. Daw, Jr., Executive Director, 745 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA 02215, or call 1 800 THE HYMN.

Perkins School of Theology, founded in 1911, is one of five official University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Church Ministries, and Doctor of Ministry, as well as the Ph.D., in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.