

## Biographical Information The Reverend Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie

The Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie is the George W. and Nell Ayers Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. Dr. McKenzie, an ordained United Methodist elder is a member of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church. She joined the faculty at Perkins in 2000. In the spring of 2011 she was named an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor by SMU, SMU's highest teaching honor. Dr. McKenzie was the 2012 President of the Academy of Homiletics, an organization of teachers of preaching from North America with a growing international membership. In 2015 she was the Lyman Beecher Lecturer at Yale Divinity School. These prestigious lectures are the longest running homiletical lectures in the United States, first begun in 1871. Dr. McKenzie received her BA in the History of Religions from Bryn Mawr College, her Master of Divinity degree from the Divinity School of Duke University, and her Ph.D. in Theology and Communication in Preaching from Princeton Theological Seminary. From 1980-1988 she served as Associate Pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in York, Pa. From 1994-1998 she served as Visiting Lecturer in Homiletics at Princeton Theological Seminary. While teaching at Princeton Seminary Dr. McKenzie served as interim pastor at Langhorne UMC in Langhorne, Pa. and Neshamony UMC in Hulmeville, Pa. From 2013-2019 Dr. McKenzie served as "Preacher-in-Residence" at Christ United Methodist Church, a 6,000 member church in Plano, Texas where she preached monthly and served as preaching coach to members of their clergy staff.

Dr. McKenzie is the Director of the Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU, a Center dedicated to fostering excellence in preaching through innovative courses and workshops, peer groups, and mentoring/coaching. One of her passions is helping younger preachers gain competence and confidence in their vocation of sharing God's Word. She is called on frequently to be guest teacher/preacher at various lay and clergy gatherings and to consult with groups of clergy around the country on creating initiatives to foster preaching excellence. Dr. McKenzie is the author of several books and numerous articles, both for scholarly and popular audiences. Her research has focused in the past on preaching the wisdom literature of the Bible (*Preaching Proverbs: Wisdom for the Pulpit* (1996), *The Gospel of Matthew* (1998), *Preaching Biblical Wisdom in a Self Help Society* (2002), *Hear and Be Wise: Becoming a Teacher and Preacher of Wisdom*,(2004), and *The Parables for Today* (2010).

Her more recent focus has been on the role of the imagination in preaching and on what preachers can learn from novelists and screenwriters. (*Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*, 2010). In 2011 Dr. McKenzie co-authored a textbook on preaching with Dr. John C. Holbert entitled *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon*. Dr. McKenzie's *Wise Up! Four Biblical Virtues for Navigating Life*, was published in May, 2018 and is being used in Bible studies and as the basis for sermon series in local churches. Her book *Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners*, for which she received SMU's Ford Fellowship Award, was published in October of 2018. It focuses on strategies of scene making and storytelling in preaching to distractible audiences with ever shortening attention spans.

Dr. McKenzie and her husband Murry live in Allen, Texas. They have 3 grown children, Melissa, Rebecca and Matthew. They are the doting grandparents of Graham (age 8) and Silas (4). They are active in First Methodist Church of Allen where they sing in the Chancel Choir and are members of the Journey Sunday

School Class. The McKenzies enjoy travel, music, musicals, plays, movies, and spending time with friends and family.

## Publications

1. *Preaching Proverbs: Wisdom for the Pulpit* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996),
2. *Matthew: Interpretation Bible Studies* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).
3. *Preaching Biblical Wisdom in a Self-Help Society* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press 2002).
4. *Hear and Be Wise: Becoming a Teacher and Preacher of Wisdom* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2004).
5. *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).
6. *The Parables for Today* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010).
7. *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon.* (Coauthored with John C. Holbert) (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011).
8. *Parental Guidance Advised: Adult Preaching from the Old Testament*, co-edited with Charles L. Aaron. (St. Louis, Missouri: Chalice Press, 2013)
9. *Wise Up! Four Biblical Virtues for Navigating Life* (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2018)
10. *Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2018).
11. *Humor Us! Preaching and the Power of the Comic Spirit*, co-authored with Owen Hanley Lynch (forthcoming in March 2023 published by Westminster John Knox Press)