



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PERKINS ANNOUNCES ARLENE ANDREWS AS
2008 SEALS AWARD RECIPIENT**

Dallas, Texas – Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, announces the selection of Arlene Bowers Andrews of Columbia, South Carolina, as the 2008 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award recipient. The award was presented at a luncheon on March 8, 2008, during the three-day Perkins Theological School for the Laity.

The award is presented annually to a layperson who embodies the Christian faith and commitment of service to Christ as exemplified by Judge Seals, a distinguished layperson whose interest and energy were instrumental in establishing the Perkins Theological School for the Laity, supported by the Howard-Holbert Endowment Fund. The fund was established in 1986 in honor of Dr. Virgil P. Howard (1936-2005) and Dr. John C. Holbert, who serves as the Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology. Selection is made by a committee of the Perkins Lay Advisory Board.

Arlene Andrews, PhD, LISW, a community psychologist and social worker, is currently a Professor at the College of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. Dr. Andrews' work involves the pursuit of social justice and peace through transformation of community systems to support families throughout the lifespan. Her research and community action has emphasized prevention of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. She was recently named a Fahs-Beck Faculty Fellow by the New York Community Trust for her emerging work with parent leaders and staff of Parents Anonymous® and the National Center for Shared Leadership. She

currently consults with the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC. This three month experience gives her the opportunity to learn more about the general board's work and to share her depth of social work and missions experience.

As a United Methodist, Dr. Andrews' great joy has been in mission work with youth. Each summer she participates in Salkehatchie Summer Service, an intensive week-long program that brings together youth, adult volunteers, and families living in the poorest communities. Last year over 2500 volunteers renovated more than 250 homes while spreading faith, hope, and love. In 2006 Dr. Andrews led the first international Salkehatchie team to León, Nicaragua. In 2007 Dr. Andrews and Salkehatchie founder Rev. John Culp released *Send Me! The Story of Salkehatchie Summer Service* (Providence House Publishing, 2007). Dr. Andrews has also taught Sunday School and held leadership posts at her home church, Trinity United Methodist in Blythewood, South Carolina.

Dr. Andrews has served in various roles with numerous nonprofit organizations, including the S. C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Nurturing Center, Voices for South Carolina's Children, the South Carolina Christian Action Council, the Duke Endowment, the Sisters of Charity Foundation, the Foundation for the Carolinas (Charlotte, NC) and the Southern Regional Council. She has served on several government commissions, including the SC Joint Legislative Committee on Children and Families, the SC Maternal and Child Health Council, and the SC Special Study Committee regarding Children's Services. Prior to entering academic work, she was the founding executive director of Sistercare, Inc. and Prevent Child Abuse-SC. She has served as an expert witness regarding family history and mitigation for federal and state courts during capital sentencing proceedings.

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