Rieger named Wendland-Cook Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Dallas, Texas – Dr. Joerg Rieger, Professor of Systematic Theology at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, has been named the Wendland-Cook Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins, effective January 1, 2009. Last spring, SMU received a $1 million gift from Barbara Cook Wendland and Erroll Wendland to establish the Wendland-Cook Professorship in Constructive Theology. The Wendlands, both graduates of SMU, are active in many community and humanitarian affairs. Having earned a masters degree in Theological Studies as well as serving on the Executive Board for the theological school, Barbara Cook Wendland, the 2007 Woodrow B. Seals Laity Award recipient, knows the value of the theological education she received at Perkins. As long-time supporters of Perkins and SMU, the Wendlands agreed to establish a fund to support a professorship in theology at Perkins. Dr. Paul Ludden, Provost at SMU, made the announcement this week of Rieger's selection to fill the appointment to that professorship.

An elder in the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Rieger has been an advisory board member for two Academic Book Series (*Critical Issues in Contemporary Religion*, and *Religion and the Modern World)*; and has served as the co-chair of the American Academy of Religion Section on Theology and Religious Reflection.

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.

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