

WILLIAM B. LAWRENCE

Dr. William B. Lawrence is Professor of American Church History at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology. He previously served as Dean of Perkins from 2002 to 2016.

Dr. Lawrence came to Perkins from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, where he was Associate Dean for Development and Church Relations. Previously, he taught at Duke Divinity School and at Wesley Theological Seminary. An ordained elder in The United Methodist Church, he has held a number of pastoral assignments, most recently at Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church (the National United Methodist Church) in Washington, D.C.

In 2008, Dr. Lawrence was elected by the General Conference to serve as one of nine members of The United Methodist Church's Judicial Council, the highest judicial body within the denomination. In 2012, members of the Judicial Council elected Dr. Lawrence to a four-year term as President. He also has service as President of the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools.

Dr. Lawrence is a native of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.. He graduated from Duke University, with distinction. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York and received his Ph.D. in homiletics and historical theology, with distinction, from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. His recent publications are *Methodism in Recovery: Renewing Mission, Reclaiming History, Restoring Health* (Abingdon Press, 2008) and *Ordained Ministry in The United Methodist Church*. He served as President of the Board of Directors for the Wesley Works Project, which was initiated by Albert Outler and others more than 30 years ago to publish the definitive, scholarly edition of John Wesley's works.

He and his wife, Naomi, have two children and five grandchildren. Their son Todd and his wife, Rachel, have a daughter, Cara, and a son, Calvin. Their son Jonathan and his wife, Aimee, are the parents of Alexandra, Wesley and Chappell.