REV. DR. WILLIAM K. MCELVANEY

2013 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD RECIPIENT

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The Reverend Dr. William K. McElvaney is Le Van Professor Emeritus of Preaching and Worship at Perkins. He earned the M.Div. (M.Th.) from Perkins in 1957, after earning an M.B.A. (1951) and B.B.A. (1950) from SMU. Upon graduation from Perkins, McElvaney served for 15 years as pastor of several United Methodist congregations. He then served for 12 years as president of the United Methodist-related Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, where the William K. McElvaney Chair in Preaching was established in his honor in 1988. He received the SMU Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1980, and the William K. McElvaney Fund for the Advancement of Peace and Justice was established at SMU in 1993. "Bill McElvaney has been an outstanding leader in theological education for decades," Dean Lawrence observes. "In his career, he has served as a professor, as a seminary president, and as a pastor. He is a model of integrity, with a passion for justice, who is always ready to labor for peace. But, in every step along the way, he acts with decency and respect for all of God's children."

More about William K. McElvaney…

In addition to his three earned degrees from SMU, McElvaney was honored with Doctor of Divinity degrees from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas (1972), and Central Methodist College in Fayette, Missouri (1978). Other honors include: Peacemaker of the Year Award, presented by the Dallas Peace Center to McElvaney and his wife Fran, for their lifelong dedication to peace, civil rights, and social justice (1997); Fitzpatrick Award for Ecumenical Leadership, presented by the Texas Conference of Churches (1999); and the Heroes of Hope Award (2001), presented by the Cathedral of

Hope in Dallas, for lifetime leadership in social justice issues and recognition of courage that provides hope for all people.

McElvaney is author of numerous books, including: *Christ's Suburban Body* (co-authored with Wilfred M. Bailey, 1970); *The Saving Possibility* (1971); *Cerebrations on Coming Alive* (1973); *Good News Is Bad News Is Good News* (1980; third printing 1987; first edition in Chinese, 1988); *The People of God in Ministry* (1981); *Preaching from Camelot to Covenant* (1989); *Winds of Grace, Ways of Faith* (1991); *Eating and Drinking at the Welcome Table* (1999); and *Becoming a Justice Seeking Congregation* (2009). He also has published a number of articles in professional journals and papers.

After being ordained an Elder in the North Texas Conference UMC in 1957, McElvaney served as pastor of First Methodist Church, Elma, Washington (1957); First Methodist Church, Justin, Texas (1958-59); originating pastor of St. Stephen Methodist Church, Mesquite, Texas (1959-67); and Northaven United Methodist Church, Dallas (1967-73). He subsequently served as president of Saint Paul School of Theology (1973-85), and professor of preaching at Perkins (1985-93). Following his retirement from Perkins, McElvaney continued his service to SMU and the larger community as part-time assistant chaplain, SMU (1993-97); Coordinator of the Dallas Area Ecumenical Jubilee Project (1997-2000); and interim minister of Midway Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dallas (2001-2002).

Along with additional service to SMU as a Board member of the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, McElvaney has served on the boards of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches; Pastoral Counseling and Education Center of Dallas; *Salud y Paz Guatemala*; Dallas Peace Center; Dallas Wilkinson Center Advisory Board; and as a member of the Church in Society Committee, Human Development Fund Committee, and Faith Voices on Justice Committee at Northaven UMC.

McElvaney has been married to Frances Owens McElvaney since 1960. They have two children, Shannon and John; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.