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**VISITING PROFESSOR ADA MARIA ISASI-DIAZ TO LECTURE AT
PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY
OCTOBER 29, 2009**

Dallas, Texas – Dr. Ada María Isasi-Díaz, professor of Social Ethics and Theology at the Theological School of Drew University and visiting professor at Perkins School of Theology, will present “Reconciliation: The Face of Justice in the 21st Century” on Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall of Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Hall at Perkins. The lecture is made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, and is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions of Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Co-sponsors include the Religious Studies Department and the Women's and Gender Studies Programs at SMU. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Dr. Isasi- Díaz was born and raised in La Habana, Cuba and came to the United States in 1960. After serving as a missionary in Lima, Peru for three years and subsequently living in Spain, she settled in Rochester, New York in 1975, where she worked as a minister in inner city Roman Catholic parishes before becoming the regional developer for the Women’s Ordination Conference. She moved to New York City in 1983 and began studies at Union Theological Seminary, where she received her Ph.D. in 1990.

Since the late 1980s Isasi-Díaz has focused on the elaboration of *mujerista* theology based on the religious understandings and practices of Latinas living in the U.S. She has lectured throughout the

9/29/2009 4:53:18 PM

country on issues of justice, women's liberation, and Latina/o theology. She has been visiting professor in Cuba, Korea and the Philippines, and has also lectured in Germany and Zimbabwe. She co-authored, with Yolanda Tarango, *Hispanic Women: Prophetic Voice in the Church*, the first book on Latina theology published in the U.S. Her other books are: *En La Lucha—In the Struggle, Mujerista Theology*, and *La Lucha Continues*. She has co-edited several other books, as well as contributed articles to many other books and journals. At present she is working on *JUSTICIA: A Reconciliatory Praxis of Care and Tenderness*, to be published by Fortress Press in 2010.

Dr. Isasi-Díaz will be at Perkins from October 25 through November 3 in her capacity as visiting professor. Her visit comes under the auspices of the school's Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, and is made possible through a grant from the Luce Foundation. During her visit Dr. Isasi-Díaz will conduct other lectures, hold consultations with faculty and students, and preach in community worship.

The central mission of the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions at Perkins School of Theology is to promote a deeper understanding of the varieties of religious life and expression within the Latino/a communities in the United States and Latin America.

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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