

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagan to Serve as Visiting Professor at SMU's Perkins School of Theology

Dallas, Texas—SMU's Perkins School of Theology has announced that Dr. Luis Rivera-Pagan, Henry White Luce Emeritus Professor of Ecumenics at Princeton Theological Seminary, will be at Perkins as visiting professor from Monday, March 31, through Friday, April 11, 2008. His visit is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions and is made possible by a program grant to the Center from the Henry Luce Foundation.

"After an absence of a decade, I look forward to collaborating with Perkins' Latino/Hispanic theological program. Perkins School of Theology is an institution I deeply respect, appreciate, and care for," says Rivera-Pagan. He will be engaged in various scholarly activities at Perkins and on the SMU campus. Here are a few of the highlights of his visit.

- Tuesday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. he will participate in the Center's "Interdisciplinary Dialogue" in Kirby Parlor.
- Monday, April 7, he will give a Public Lecture in Perkins Chapel at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9, at 11:30 a.m. he will be preaching in Perkins Chapel during the service remembering Archbishop Oscar Romero.
- He will be available for conversation when he is not participating in an event.

Dr. Rivera-Pagan served as the Henry Winters Professor of Ecumenics at Princeton from 2001-2007, and as the John A. Mackay Professor of World Christianity at Princeton during

1999-2000. Prior to that he served as Professor of Humanities at the University of Puerto Rico 1986-2001. Rivera-Pagan earned his Ph.D. from Yale University in1970 and is a long-time friend of Perkins, having participated in various events and made contributions to *Apuntes*, a journal of theological reflections from a Hispanic-Latino context.

The Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions addresses topics and issues related to the Latino/a religious experience within a broader ecumenical and religious context, as well as attention to international dynamics and realities. In fostering and supporting innovative research projects by both younger and established scholars, the Center contributes to the growth of knowledge concerning Latino religion and religiosity. Through consultations, seminars, public events, and publications in a wide range of formats, the Center disseminates the results of new ventures in scholarship in these areas and the insights gained through this work in ways that will be of value to the churches, the academy, and the wider society.

Dr. Rivera-Pagan's scholarly publications include 16 volumes and more than 100 articles in English and Spanish. Many of his works have been translated to French, German, Italian, and Portuguese. His most recent books include A Violent Evangelism: The Political and Religious Conquest of the Americas, God, in your Grace... Official report of the Ninth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, and Fe y Cultural en Puerto Rico. His most recent articles are "Pentecostalism in Latin America" and "Pastoral Theology in a Post colonial Context: Some Observations from the Caribbean."

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.

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