



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY NAMES NEW DIRECTOR OF BRIDWELL LIBRARY**

*Dallas, Texas* – Roberta A. Schaafsma will be the new Director of Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. She will assume the role of J. S. Bridwell Endowed Librarian on April 1, 2007.

Schaafsma is currently the associate director of the Duke Divinity School Library, where she has served since 1993. She will bring a broad range of experience to her new responsibilities at Perkins School of Theology.

A distinguished leader among theological librarians, Schaafsma was elected to the board of directors of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA) in 2004 and is currently secretary of the board. She also has led the Public Services Interest Group, served as chair of the Education Committee and as president of the Methodist Librarians Fellowship within ATLA. Schaafsma also has been an accreditation visiting team member for the Associati

profound appreciation for the multiple responsibilities of a truly great theological library. Bridwell houses a remarkable collection of the most important resources for academic research needed by faculty and Bridwell has a strong commitment to public service for the education of the community. Roberta Schaafsma will bring a unique combination of academic training, professional experience, and university leadership which will enable

The collections of Bridwell include a broad general collection, primary and secondary source material for Methodist studies, as well as rare books and manuscripts.

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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