

Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie

The Rev. Dr. Alyce M. McKenzie is George W. and Nell Ayers Le Van Professor of Preaching and Worship at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. She joined the faculty at Perkins in 2000. In the spring of 2011 she was named an Altshuler Distinguished Teaching Professor by SMU, SMU's highest teaching honor. Dr. McKenzie was the 2012 President of the Academy of Homiletics, an organization of teachers of preaching from North America with a growing international membership. Dr. McKenzie, an ordained United Methodist elder since 1981, was a member of the Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference (now the Susquehanna Annual Conference) from 1981-2007. She is currently a member of the North Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church where she has served on the Board of Ordained Ministry's Preparation and Qualifications Committee. In 2015 Dr. McKenzie delivered the Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School, the longest standing homiletical lectureship in the USA, begun by Lyman Beecher in 1871.



Dr. McKenzie received her BA in the History of Religions from Bryn Mawr College, her Master of Divinity degree from the Divinity School of Duke University, and her Ph.D. in Theology and Communication in Preaching from Princeton Theological Seminary. McKenzie has previously served local churches in Pennsylvania and currently serves as "Preacher-in-Residence" at Christ United Methodist Church, a 6,000 member church in Plano, Texas where she preaches monthly and serves as preaching coach to members of their clergy staff.

Dr. McKenzie is the Director of the Perkins Center for Preaching Excellence at SMU, a Center dedicated to fostering excellence in preaching through innovative courses and workshops, peer groups, and mentoring/coaching. One of her passions is helping younger preachers gain competence and confidence in their vocation of sharing God's Word. She is called on frequently to be guest teacher/preacher at various lay and clergy gatherings and to consult with groups of clergy around the country on creating initiatives to foster preaching excellence.

Dr. McKenzie's research has focused in the past on preaching the wisdom literature of the Bible. Her more recent focus is on the role of the imagination in preaching and on what preachers can learn from novelists and screenwriters. In 2011 Dr. McKenzie co-authored a textbook on preaching with Dr. John C. Holbert entitled *What Not to Say: Avoiding the Common Mistakes that Can Sink Your Sermon*. Dr. McKenzie is currently at work on two book projects. One is *Save Your Receipt: Exchanging Fear for Faith*, a work devoted to the four virtues of the wise life according to biblical wisdom literature. The second project, for which she received SMU's Ford Fellowship Award in 2013, is the basis for her Beecher Lectures and is entitled *Making a Scene in the Pulpit: Vivid Preaching for Visual Listeners*.

Dr. McKenzie and her husband Murry live in Allen, Texas. They have 3 grown children, Melissa, Rebecca and Matthew who all live in Texas. They are the doting grandparents of Graham, born on Thanksgiving 2013 to Rebecca and her husband Dallas. They are active in First Methodist Church of Allen where they sing in the Chancel Choir and are members of the Journey Sunday School Class.



Rev. Dr. O. Wesley Allen, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. O. Wesley Allen, Jr. is currently serving as Lois Craddock Perkins Professor of Homiletics at Perkins School of Theology, at Southern Methodist University. He served previously as professor of Homiletics and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary. Prior to his faculty appointment at Lexington Theological Seminary, he taught homiletics at Drew Theological School and Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, Drew University.

He earned the Ph.D. from Emory University in 1996; M.Div., summa cum laude, from Yale Divinity School in 1990; and B.A. summa cum laude, from Birmingham-Southern College in 1987.

An ordained elder in the Indiana Annual Conference, Dr. Allen has previously been a local church pastor and has served as a campus minister at the Georgia Tech Wesley Foundation and as Dean of the Chapel at DePauw University.

He is the author and editor of numerous books on homiletics and interpretation of the New Testament, as well as many scholarly articles and published sermons. He is also co-president of the Academy of Homiletics.