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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

“UNLOCKING MERCY” FOCUS OF 2009 STACEY PASTORS’ WORKSHOP

TULSA: For the mercy of God to flow through our churches and their settings, Christian leaders must continually learn and re-learn practices that unite us with that mercy. “Unlocking Mercy: Practicing Christian Spirituality for Justice and Compassion” is the title of the 2009 Stacey Pastors’ Workshop (SPW).

Slated for Thursday and Friday, October 8-9, the event will be held at the Tabbernee Conference Center, of Phillips Theological Seminary (PTS), at 901 North Mingo Road, in Tulsa, Okla.

The Rev. Joseph D. Driskill, Professor of Spirituality at the Pacific School of Religion and an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is the featured speaker for this two-day event. He will be leading participants “in the art and practice of Christian spirituality that leads to beneficent action in the world,” said Nancy Claire Pittman, Associate Professor of the Practice of Ministry and director of the Doctor of Ministry program at PTS.

The Rev. Ms. Debbie Blue is the featured preacher at SPW. She is one of the founding pastors of House of Mercy, an American Baptist church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Established in 1996 with a commitment to the exploration of diverse Christian worship styles and practices, the House of Mercy seeks to be a place “where questions are encouraged, where you will not be handed a checklist of orthodoxy, where ambiguity is not the enemy of faith but its partner.” Blue is the author of *Sensual Orthodoxy* and *From Stone to Living Word: Letting the Bible Live Again*.

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STACEY PASTORS' WORKSHOP – ADD ONE

“With the guidance of Dr. Driskill and Ms. Blue, PTS seeks to offer pastors opportunities to re-connect with elements of the spiritual riches of the Christian tradition. Our fundamental conviction is that only through the cultivation of an ever-deepening habit of prayer, reflection, and study can ministries of justice and compassion flow forth like water to give life within our communities near and far,” said Pittman.

The Stacey Pastors' Workshop, the brainchild of the Rev. Dr. Norman Stacey, Sr., began in 1991. Conducted under the auspices of Phillips Theological Seminary, the purpose of this biennial workshop is “to help seminary students and pastors deal with the everyday challenges and problems that exist in every congregational situation.” The 2007 workshop featured Fred Craddock and Barbara Brown Taylor.

Pre-registration is due by October 1, 2009. Cost for the seminar is \$85 and includes Thursday night's dinner and breakfast on Friday morning. Registrations received from October 2-8 will cost \$85 and will not include meals.

Participants can register online at www.ptstulsa.edu or by calling PTS at 918.610.8303.

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About Phillips Theological Seminary

Established in 1907, Phillips Theological Seminary is a graduate seminary dedicated to preparing women and men for varied Christian ministries in the church and society. Affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Phillips provides an ecumenical education, with students representing more than 20 denominations. Phillips is an intimate community of teachers and learners who are seeking to be faithful to God through disciplined, reasoned and reflective study of scripture, religious tradition, and human experience. In addition to serving the church's need for an educated ministry, the seminary also welcomes students who are not pursuing ministerial degrees but who want to explore their faith through courses in the curriculum. For more information, visit Phillips Theological Seminary at 901 N. Mingo Road, Tulsa, Okla. call (918) 610-8303 or go to www.ptstulsa.edu.