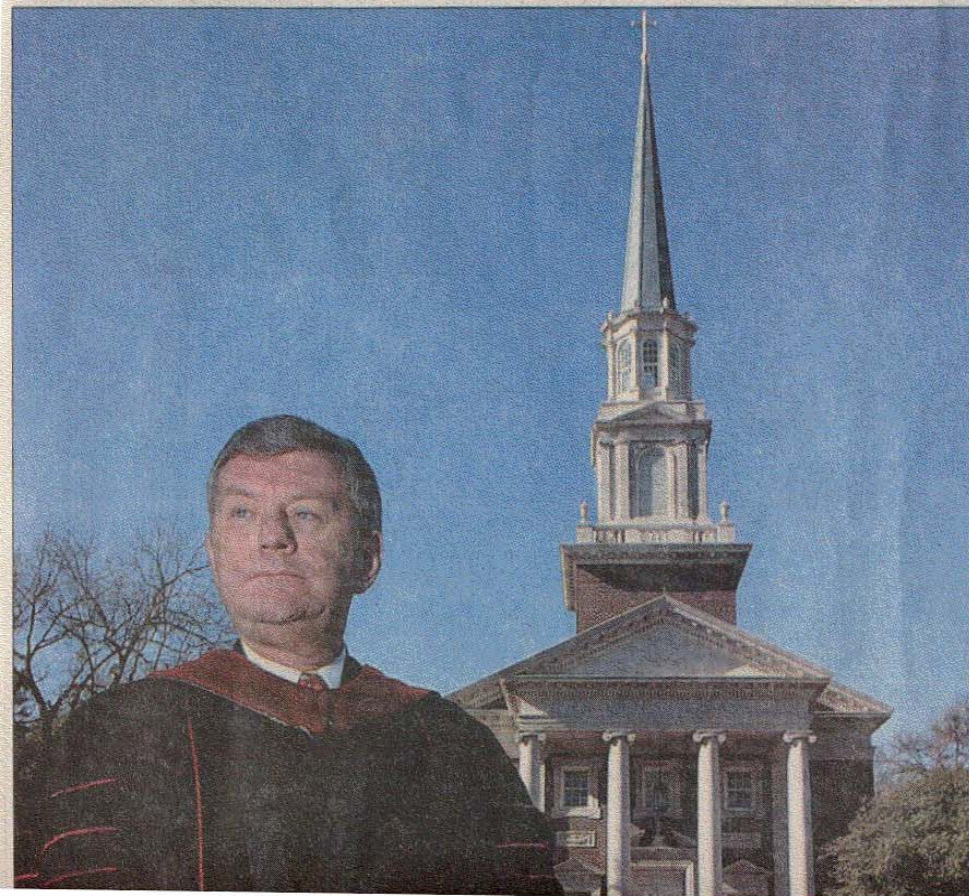


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PROFILE

One foot in church, one in academia

Perkins' new theology dean well suited to guide young ministers**By Dena Hill**
Staff Writer

As he walks into a meeting room of SMU's Kirby Hall, Bill Lawrence stops to greet co-workers and others, telling anecdotes and offering a smile along with his handshake. Sitting down to talk, Lawrence purposely positions himself away from the head of the table, across from others, so that the light through the window won't glare in anyone's eyes. The result: In less than four minutes, he's met everyone in the room, thought of everyone's well-being and is undeniably in charge.

The new dean of SMU's Perkins School of Theology, Lawrence, 56, began his administration there Aug. 1, 2002, and is the 10th dean to

es in the immediate area or beyond, academic meetings that are national or international and alumni who are in the ministry in all 50 states and 30 countries around the world. Internally he works with the 520 students currently enrolled at Perkins, as well as the 90 faculty and staff members there.

As the school moves forward, Lawrence said he sees his four primary goals as:

- Improving physical facilities (improving classrooms)
- Faculty development ("to continue to encourage and support faculty members in their academic research pursuits")
- Finances (continuing support through scholarship and grants)
- Formative scholarship (training more students)