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The Fund for Theological Education
Announces 2011 Chair and Three New Trustees
Florida Smith Ellis Elected to Lead FTE's Board

ATLANTA, February 8, 2011 – The Fund for Theological Education (FTE) has announced the election of Florida Smith Ellis to Board chair and the appointment of three new Trustees. The new appointments to the FTE Board of Trustees, elected by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), are the Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley, the Rev. Sara Hayden and the Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol.

The three new Trustees will serve initially for three years, advancing FTE's mission to support a new generation of gifted and diverse young leaders for vocations in pastoral ministry and theological education. The Fund annually awards more than \$1.5 million in fellowships and leadership development opportunities to gifted undergraduate, seminary and doctoral students, and equips congregations and others with resources and practices to nurture vocational discernment in young people and their adult mentors.

"We welcome our new Trustees, each of whom brings the background and experience to FTE's Board that will advance our mission," Ellis said. "I know they are committed, as I am, to support future leaders as they prepare for vocations that serve the church and society."

Ms. Florida Smith Ellis has served as an FTE Trustee since 2003 and as a Board member of Columbia Theological Seminary for more than twenty years. She is a community and church leader at First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, where she served as Clerk of Session; she has also been Moderator of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. Ellis is currently on the Board of FCS Urban Ministries, and previously served on the Boards of the Georgia Conservancy and Trinity School in Atlanta. She is a graduate of Hollins College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and holds a master's degree in business information systems from Georgia State University.

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The Rev. Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley is the executive secretary-treasurer of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention, an international Christian missions agency. He also is the executive director of Lott Carey International, a global relief and development agency based in Washington, D.C. that helps improve the quality of life in marginalized communities around the world. Goatley is an ordained Baptist minister. He is a national board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and is on the board of the Save Darfur Coalition. He also serves as president of the North American Baptist Fellowship. Goatley received his bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville and a Master of Divinity degree and Ph.D. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Sara Hayden is the executive director of the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission, which strategically advances the vision of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to "grow Christ's church deep and wide" by developing and supporting diverse faith communities throughout Georgia. She has served as associate director of a center providing services for Latino communities in rural Missouri and as a hospital chaplain at Emory University Healthcare. She studied development sociology at the University of Havana in Cuba and has traveled extensively in Latin America engaging in social justice issues. Hayden received FTE Undergraduate and Ministry Fellowships as a student, which enabled her to study practices of solidarity in ministry by partnering with refugees and humanitarian aid groups along the U.S.-Mexico border. Hayden is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Truman State University and earned her Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, where she was a Columbia Scholar.

The Rev. Dr. Donna Claycomb Sokol is pastor of Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church, a diverse congregation in downtown Washington, D.C. A former White House intern in the Clinton Administration, she has served as the minister of congregational care at First United Methodist Church in Hendersonville, N.C. and as director of admissions at Duke Divinity School. Claycomb Sokol has supported FTE as a faculty member at the Fund's annual Leaders in Ministry conference, and as a partner in its Calling Congregations initiative. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics from William Woods University, a Master of Divinity degree from Duke Divinity School and her Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary.

FTE is a national, ecumenical organization dedicated to supporting a new generation of talented, diverse Christian leaders who renew the church and change the world through vocations in pastoral ministry and theological education. For more information, visit www.fteleaders.org.

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