



660 Francklyn Street
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3B5
www.astheology.ns.ca

News Release

February 2, 2009

For Immediate Release

The Most Reverend Frederick James Hiltz to receive Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa)

Halifax, NS – The Board of Governors, Senate, and President of Atlantic School of Theology (AST), The Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, are pleased to announce that The Most Rev. Frederick James Hiltz, the 13th Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) at its convocation on May 2, 2009.

In conferring the degree on Archbishop Hiltz, AST recognizes his outstanding service and leadership, both to his own Anglican Community and to the church ecumenical. Archbishop Hiltz is an alumnus of AST who received his Master of Divinity degree in 1978. He then served as a priest in several parishes of the Diocese of Nova Scotia & PEI until he was elected suffragan bishop in 1995. In 2002, he was elected diocesan bishop, and in July 2007, he was elected Primate of Canada.

As diocesan bishop in Nova Scotia & PEI, Archbishop Hiltz gave important leadership in ecumenical relationships in the region and beyond. He was Anglican Co-chair of the Anglican Lutheran Joint Working Group which produced the Waterloo Declaration, the agreement that provided the basis for full communion between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. He is currently Anglican Co-Chair of the Anglican Lutheran International Commission. His commitment to social justice is reflected in his work with the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, which this year celebrates its 50th Anniversary. He is the first Anglican Primate to be elected President of the Fund.

Canon Beresford said he is delighted that AST is able to honour the accomplishments of Archbishop Hiltz, one of its own alumni, who has contributed so much to ecumenism and the leadership of the Anglican Church of Canada.

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Contact:

Dawn Robertson

Communications and Development Officer

Atlantic School of Theology

(902) 496-7943

devoffice@astheology.ns.ca / www.astheology.ns.ca