

News Release  
March 28, 2011  
For Immediate Release

## Atlantic School of Theology Names Dr. Helga Mills to List of April 2011 Convocation Honorees

Halifax, NS – During Convocation ceremonies on April 30, 2011, Atlantic School of Theology (AST) will award a Doctor of Divinity, honoris causa, to Dr. Helga Mills, in recognition of her significant accomplishments and enthusiastic work on behalf of the school and the community.

### **Dr. Helga Mills**

Following a six-month period in 2004 when she served as Interim President of AST, Dr. Mills was appointed to the AST Board of Governors and served for two three-year terms as a Pine Hill Divinity Hall representative. During that time, she worked diligently on several committees, including the Long Range Planning Committee, which was responsible for developing the school's current strategic directions plan. She continues to be supportive of AST initiatives and actively endorses the school in the church world and beyond.

Dr. Mills has a PhD in English Literature (specializing in Shakespearean studies). She has taught both in Canada and abroad, including the University of Windsor, University of British Columbia, Wilfrid Laurier University, University of North Carolina and International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. In 1985, she joined the staff of the Division of Mission in Canada, United Church of Canada, where she had responsibilities in social justice portfolios, including aboriginal rights, race relations, refugees, and human rights. She also chaired the ecumenical Inter-Church Committee for Refugees and was vice-chair of Project North, both of which eventually folded into Kairos, the current umbrella ecumenical voice for social justice in Canada and abroad. Following her service at General Council, she became the Executive Secretary for Toronto Conference. During her tenure there, she represented the United Church at the Council in Berlin when East and West Synods of the Reformed Church in Germany united after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 1994, she was part of a small Canadian team invited by the New Sudan Council of Churches to investigate the war in Southern Sudan. From 1994 to 1999, she was Principal of St. Paul's College, University of Waterloo, part of a consortium of four

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denominational residential colleges (United, Anglican, Roman Catholic and Mennonite) that taught a variety of courses and shared the Religious Studies Department with the University. Dr. Mills lives in Halifax with her husband, the Reverend Dr. Robert Mills, and continues to demonstrate her deep concern for social justice and peace.

Other honorees include the Reverend Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan, who will receive an honorary degree and deliver the convocation address, and David Hewitt, who will receive an Associate of Atlantic School of Theology designation.

All are welcome to attend AST's convocation exercises, which will take place on Saturday, April 30, at 11:00 a.m. in Saint Benedict Catholic Church, 45 Radcliffe Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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