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Office of University Communications

August 16, 2012

Dr. Jeff Rogers to Take the Helm

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University is pleased to announce that Dr. Jeff Rogers has been named Dean of the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies.

Rogers' relationship with GWU began in 2004 when he was invited by the University to speak at its annual faculty retreat. Following that event, doors opened and opportunities grew at GWU for Rogers.

“Dr. Rogers is no stranger to Gardner-Webb,” said Dr. Ben Leslie, GWU provost and executive vice president. “He has taught as an adjunct professor of religion for the Department of Religious Studies and Philosophy and has frequently been a guest speaker on campus. As a former pastor, he even counted employees of the University among his parishioners as well as many family members of our faculty and staff.”

Rogers served as a senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C. Prior to that role, Rogers was the assistant and later associate academic dean at Furman University in Greenville, where he also served as co-director of the University's forum for Educational Inquiry and as associate professor of Religion. Rogers holds a Ph. D in Old Testament Biblical Studies from Princeton Theological Seminary located in New Jersey, an M. Div in languages from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Wake Forest, and a B.A. (cum laude) from North Carolina Central University located in Durham.

“I was thrilled to get the news from Dr. Leslie inviting me to serve as Dean. Dr. Price's legacy as a teacher, administrator, and friend at Gardner-Webb is both formidable and inspiring, and those of us who knew her and loved her are still grieving over losing her. It is deeply gratifying, while decidedly bittersweet to be here now.”

Price was a beloved professor, dean, and associate provost for the University who died in March after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a part of the Gardner-Webb family for over 20 years.

Rogers will enter the fall semester getting acquainted with his grad school colleagues and their programs and to get up to speed on his responsibilities in partnering with them and their students to accomplish their educational goals. Rogers said, “Longer term, my goals would be three: rigorous assessment, creative enhancement, and, where appropriate, strategic expansion of the graduate school's programs.”

Rogers' long list of talents also includes author. He has written numerous books, essays and articles, including "Building a House for All God's Children: Diversity Leadership in the Church" (Abingdon, 2008). Rogers enjoys spending time with his wife and four sons.

For more information about the Gayle Bolt Price School of Graduate Studies, please call 704-406-2229.