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For immediate release

## **Andrew College Inaugurates 21<sup>st</sup> President New President Pledges A *Commitment To Serve***

*“The commitment to serve is a hallmark of Andrew College: a commitment to serve students, a commitment to serve the communities of SW Georgia, a commitment to serve as leaders in those communities.”* Dr. David C. Seyle

With renewed commitment and enthusiasm, Dr. David C Seyle was sworn in as the 21<sup>st</sup> president of Andrew College, in Cuthbert, Georgia. The inauguration took place on the Andrew College campus at the G. Clyde and Ruth Tarrer Jinks, Sr. Physical Education Complex Thursday, January 31, 2008. A crowd of over 400 Andrew College students, faculty, Trustees, three former Andrew College presidents, as well as several college presidents from throughout the state of Georgia, participated in the inauguration – a time-honored Methodist ceremony highlighted by a vividly colorful procession, with faculty and administration donning their traditional faculty regalia.

Emily Jean McAfee, Chairman of Andrew’s Board of Trustees, placed the Presidential Medal on Dr. Seyle as she exhorted the crowd, *“Andrew’s future is as secure as it has ever been. Our further development requires the leadership Andrew’s Board of Trustees sees in you (Dr. Seyle). This community has pledged itself to partner with you in moving Andrew forward.”* McAfee encouraged the crowd to support Seyle’s commitment to serve, as well as their own commitment. *“Andrew College has been at the forefront of the servant leadership movement in higher education. AndrewServes is the only junior college servant leadership program in the state of Georgia and one of only a handful nation-wide. The College’s commitment to serve has deep roots and great impact.”*

Seyle’s inaugural speech focused, in part, on the college’s proud tradition of service. *“A commitment to serve has always characterized Andrew students. Andrew teaches more than subject matter – Andrew teaches the values of responsibility, acceptance, service, and respect. Andrew College faculty members*

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*continue to do what they have done for years – they focus on the students they are committed to serve. Faculty members continue to give students an exceptional base for their first two years of a Liberal Arts education and to prepare leaders for the communities of Southwest Georgia. They mentor students who need a helping hand and motivate students who need pushing. They provide extra help for students who struggle and inspire students to surpass their own expectations. They open their hearts to all and remain steadfast in their commitment to serve students.”*

Focusing on the future vision for Andrew, Seyle emphasized the symbolism of the ceremony, “*Today’s event is not only the inauguration of a new presidency, but the inauguration of new partnerships and recommitted loyalties. Andrew College is a community which provides the space and time as well as the academic nurture, to help students develop critical thinking ability and consequent social skills. We have a shared vision and a commitment to the communities we serve.*” Seyle stirred the crowd as he promised, “*I pledge to you with all my heart and soul that I will work with all my energy and effort to ensure that the values, traditions and culture of Andrew College are under girded and strengthened – as we move toward a new and exciting future together.*” Ending his remarks with a challenge, it was clear Seyle is going to involve the entire Andrew community in his vision for the college, “*I challenge you to become partners to tell the story - board members, faculty, student body, community leaders, friends and church leaders from across South Georgia - and to secure the vision for the coming years - a new generation of Christian leaders grounded in the liberal arts and servant leadership.*”

### **Background on Andrew College**

Founded in 1854, Andrew College is a private, two-year, residential, liberal arts college related to the United Methodist Church. Its mission is to provide an academically challenging liberal arts curriculum within a nurturing community. The charter of Andrew was granted in 1854 by the Georgia Legislature, the second oldest charter in the U.S., giving an educational institution the right to confer degrees upon women. In 1956, the institution became co-educational. Only a handful of colleges in Georgia are older than Andrew and few possess such a rich and celebrated history. Please visit the website at [andrewcollege.edu](http://andrewcollege.edu) for more historical information on Andrew College.

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***If you would like to schedule an interview with Dr. Seyle or for additional media information, please contact:***

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***Other inclusions:*** vita for Dr. David C. Seyle/Bios for Program Speakers/Facts about Andrew College (general information).

Photos and the Inauguration Program (PDF) will be emailed separately.

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**Dr. David C. Seyle**  
**President – Andrew College**

The Rev. Dr. David Seyle and Claudia, his wife, came to Andrew in 1991 when he was appointed College Chaplain and the Pastor of the Cuthbert United Methodist Church. After two years, he was appointed to the faculty, and then Academic Dean and Professor of Religion in 1995. Later, he was installed as Dean of the College. In August, 2007, the Andrew College Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Seyle the 21<sup>st</sup> President to serve Andrew College.

Dr. Seyle completed his formal education at Candler School of Theology where he received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry. He is also a recipient of a Rollins Research Fellowship at Emory and a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership in Education.

Dr. Seyle is a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar and Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar. He is the Chair of the Committee on Colleges of the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry.

# **Andrew College Presidential Inauguration**

## **Bios for Program Speakers**

### **Dr. Don E. Saliers**

The Rev. Dr. Don E. Saliers holds the Wm. R. Cannon Distinguished Professorship in Theology and Worship, Emeritus, at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Educated at Ohio Wesleyan, Yale Divinity School, and Cambridge Universities, he received his Ph.D. from Yale University. Soon after coming to Emory University in 1974, he became President Seyle's doctoral advisor. Dr. Saliers is author of numerous books, over a hundred essays, and he co-authored *A Song to Sing, A Life to Live*, with his daughter, Emily Saliers of the Grammy Award winning Indigo Girls.

### **Bishop Marion Edwards**

The Rev. Dr. Marion Edwards retired from active service after serving as Bishop of the North Carolina Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from the Candler School of Theology. Prior to his election to the episcopacy in 1996, he served as a pastor and District Superintendent in the South Georgia Conference. Bishop Edwards married President and Mrs. Seyle while serving Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church in Savannah. Bishop Edwards now resides in Hamilton, Georgia, and serves as an emeritus trustee of Andrew College.

### **Rev. Enoch Hendry**

The Rev. Enoch Hendry is the Senior Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Savannah, Georgia, and earned a Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology. Additionally, he serves as the President of the Georgia United Methodist Commission on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. He and President Seyle have remained close friends since attending Jenkins High School in Savannah. Mr. Hendry served 15 years in campus ministry: Clemson University, 1987-1993, and The University of Tennessee, 1993-2002. In 1999 he was recognized by the United Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education as the Campus Minister of the Year.

### **Dr. Lela Phillips**

Dr. Lela Phillips is currently a Professor of English at Andrew College. She earned a Doctor of Education from Utah State University and began her tenure at Andrew College in 1987. Dr. Phillips was the Academic Dean when President Seyle began his tenure at Andrew College, and they have been colleagues for 16 years. She has numerous professional accomplishments, including many presentations and publications. Her most recent book, *The Lena Baker Story*, is currently being filmed as a feature length movie.



## **Facts About Andrew College**

- Andrew College is a private, two-year, liberal arts college related to The United Methodist Church.
- There are about 350 students on our 40-acre campus.
- Over 90% of our students live in campus residence halls.
- We offer academic, athletic, fine arts, and servant leadership scholarships.
- Georgia Hope Scholars may be eligible for academic scholarships.
- The average class size is 12 students.
- The student/faculty ratio is 12:1.
- Andrew has more than 40 areas of study.
- Our core curriculum parallels that of four-year colleges and universities.
- We offer nine competitive athletic teams: men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, women's fast pitch softball, women's basketball, men's baseball and men's and women's golf.
- Andrew College athletic teams compete in Region XVII of the National Junior College Athletic Association and in the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association.
- Students get involved in intramurals, clubs and organizations, campus activities, and various leadership initiatives.
- Andrew College offers excellent fine and performing arts programs, including Art, Drama/Theatre, Chorus, and Piano.
- We offer support in career counseling, transfer counseling, study skills, and time management.

The charter of Andrew, granted in 1854 by the Georgia Legislature, is the second oldest charter in the United States giving an educational institution the right to confer degrees upon women. Originally named Andrew Female College, Andrew operated as a women's four-year college for 63 years. In 1917, Andrew became a junior college and in 1956, the institution became co-educational.

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