

For immediate release
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**AUSTIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY PROFESSOR PENS NEW
BOOK ON HISTORY, FACETS OF COMMUNION**

AUSTIN, Texas – A new book by Austin Graduate School of Theology Professor Allan McNicol explains the history and nuances of one of the most intriguing facets of the Christian faith – communion.

“Preparing for the Lord’s Supper,” to be released this November, is a companion volume to the successful “Preparing for Baptism” book (now in its second printing and also in Spanish) published by Christian Studies Press, the publishing arm of Austin Grad.

Dr. McNicol is professor of the New Testament at Austin Grad, where he also is the senior faculty member with 35 years of service to the School. Cost of the 145-page book, his sixth, is kept at low (\$3.50), reflecting the primary purpose of Christian Studies Press to educate readers about the subject.

The book serves not only as a companion to the baptism publication, but also as a guide for Christians who participate regularly in communion without understanding its history and how it should be viewed today, Dr. McNicol said.

“I’m not particularly sure there is any clear teaching on what people are to think, how they are to see themselves approaching the taking of the communion and what’s appropriate for participation in the Lord’s Supper,” he said. “It seems like there ought to be a guide, a manual for someone who has thought about the

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Christian tradition on what one should do.”

The professor's next book, due in the spring of 2009, is about the book of Revelation, part of a series by other authors on the books of the Bible.

A native of Australia, the author completed graduate education at Abilene Christian University, Yale and Vanderbilt.

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About Austin Grad:

The Austin Graduate School of Theology, (www.austingrad.edu) known informally as Austin Grad, is a seminary associated with the Churches of Christ and in conversation with all who call on Jesus Christ as Lord, which exists to promote knowledge, understanding and practice of the Christian faith. Since its inception in 1917 as a Bible Chair to the University of Texas, Austin Grad has grown into an independent institution that has educated thousands of individuals and edified churches in the understanding and practice of the Christian faith by equipping ministers and other Christians for service. Austin Grad is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in Decatur, Ga., to award bachelor's and master's degrees.