

## PRESS RELEASE

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES PARKER J. PALMER WITH WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER AWARD

Parker J. Palmer, whose influential books, articles, workshops, and seminars have raised anew a focus on the inner, spiritual life of those who teach, has been selected to receive the 2010 William Rainey Harper Award presented by the Religious Education Association. Palmer's best-known books include *To Know as We Are Known: Education as a Spiritual Discipline* (1980), *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring* (1990), and *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life* (1998.) A graduate of Carleton College, Palmer attended Union Theological Seminary in New York before completing graduate work in sociology at the University of California in Berkeley. Dr. Palmer has taught sociology at several colleges and universities and currently serves as a popular speaker, writer, and leader of seminars through the Center for Courage and Renewal, which he helped to found.

The William Rainey Harper Award is presented by the Religious Education Association to individuals whose public and scholarly work has made a significant impact on the theory and practice of religious education. The list of recipients of this prestigious award includes many of the world's most influential theologians, educators, psychologists, and philosophers including Margaret Mead, Marshall McLuhan, Paolo Freire, Gabriel Moran and Maria Harris, Martin Marty, and the 2009 honoree, James W. Fowler.

The Religious Education Association is delighted to announce that Dr. Palmer will be able to attend the Annual Meeting of the REA at the Denver Renaissance Hotel, to be held November 7-9, 2010. The presentation of the Harper Award will be a highlight of the meeting and an event the membership of the Association will not want to miss.