

## **In Pursuit of a Just Society: New Challenges to Faith-Based Education**



### **Ella Simmons**

General vice president, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**Thursday, 12 February**

**2:00 P.M.**

**Varsity Theatre**

Ella Louise Smith Simmons serves as a general vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland, and has the distinction of being the first woman to hold that position. Simmons provides professional and spiritual advisement to the Education Department, Women's Ministries Department, and, in an associate capacity, the Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department. She also provides leadership to several worldwide agencies, organizations, and university boards. Previously, she served as provost at La Sierra University in Riverside, California; vice president for Academic Affairs at Oakwood College (now university) in Huntsville, Alabama; associate dean at the University of Louisville School of Education, where she also was a tenured member of the graduate faculty in the Foundations of Education Department; and chairperson of the Department of Education at Kentucky State University. Her fondness for institutional evaluation involved her in accreditation work throughout the world for twenty-five years. Simmons' grant-funded research and development endeavors focusing on education for underrepresented groups have yielded an array of successful programs, refereed publications, and church periodical articles over the years, and she has continued this interest as guest and program host on church and public television. She received a PhD in education from the University of Louisville and the Honoris Causa Doctor of Pedagogy degree from Andrews University in Michigan. Her husband Nord is a retired teacher and business owner, and they are the parents of two sons who are also educators, and they have three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.