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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DR. LAWRENCE JONES BRINGS A LIFETIME OF RESEARCH AND STUDY TO HIS INDEPTH LOOK AT THE HISTORICALLY BLACK CHURCH

(Atlanta, GA, November 5, 2007) Dr. Lawrence N. Jones, Dean Emeritus of Howard University Divinity School, Washington, D.C., will speak from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) pulpit on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 during the 11 a.m. chapel hour, giving highlights of his book, *African Americans and the Christian Church 1619-1860* (Pilgrims Press, 2007.) Following the chapel hour, Dr. Jones will talk further about his book during a reception immediately following the service in the Chapel Atrium. The event is free and open to the public.

After more than a half-century career as a pastor, scholar, author and administrator of biblical studies at several institutions of higher learning, Jones is not finished with probing and investigating the nuance of spreading the Gospel, particularly in regard to historically African American denominations of the Christian church. He's retired from the academic setting but continues to stir the intellect and the souls of those who would read his historically insightful writing. A prolific author, Dr. Jones explores the strategies white church people devised to accommodate Jesus' mandate to spread the Gospel while preserving structures that continued their dominance and power. What better place to expound on the complex relationship between African Americans and the churches prior to the Civil War than The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC); hailed as the world's premier academy for afro-centric ecumenical theological study. ITC is indeed a rare scholastic commodity in theological education, celebrating a half-century of operating as no other seminary has been able to function, with six different denominational seminaries under "one roof."

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Prior to his retirement from Howard in 1991, Dr. Jones held the position of dean of Students at Union Theological Seminary, Director of The American Forum of African Studies, University of Ghana, and Dean of the Chapel, Fisk University. His lectureships have taken him to universities, seminaries, numerous church and civic organizations both nationally and abroad. He has served as consultant to the Congress of National Black Churches, Pew Charitable Trust Urban Ministry Program, and Lilly Endowment.

Dr. Jones is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He earned the B.S. in Education, West Virginia State College; M.A. in American History, University Chicago; B.D., Oberlin Graduate School of Theology; and the Ph.D. in Religion, Yale University School of Divinity. Additionally, he holds honorary doctorates from Jewish Theological Seminary, Shaw University Divinity School, and Protestant Episcopal Seminary. The author of innumerable publications, many of Dr. Jones' writings reference relational behavior between the Church and the Academy including, "A Reflection on Theological Education for the Whole Church," in Theological Education; "Why the Church is on Campus," in United Church Herald; and "The Organized Church: Its Historic Significance and Changing Role in the Contemporary Black Experience," and in The Directory of African America Religious Bodies: A Compendium.

Located in the Atlanta University Center, the world's largest center of African American higher education, ITC is the only theological seminary of the United Negro College Fund, and is a member of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education (ARCHE). ITC is one of the fully accredited Historically Black Theological Seminaries of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) and the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

For more information about these events or to schedule an interview with Dr. Jones, call Karla Simpson-Brown at 404-614-6394.

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