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**For Immediate Release**

## **ITC Professor of New Testament Dr. Jamal Hopkins is the 2009 Charles B. Copher Lecturer**



(l-r) Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins, Minister Marlene Underwood, Dr. Margaret Aymer

(Atlanta – February 2009) -- The 2009 Charles B. Copher Lecture which will take place Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 11 a.m. in the Chapel at The **Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC)** and will feature ITC Assistant Professor of New Testament and Dead Sea Scroll expert, Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins. Minister Marlene Underwood and Dr. Margaret Aymer will be respondents to Dr. Hopkins's lecture: **"Looking Back To Step Forward: What The Dead Sea Scrolls Teach The Black Church."** Min. Underwood, an ITC alumna who is a technical writer, studied Hebrew Bible while at ITC. Dr. Aymer is Assistant Professor of New Testament at ITC.

Minister Marlene Underwood is a graduate of Georgetown University where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish with a minor in Theoretical Linguistics. While at ITC, she earned the Master of Divinity in Hebrew Bible Studies. Min. Underwood is a professional technical writer and stays connected to the ITC community by assisting Biblical Studies professors who teach distance-learning courses and any students requesting her help. She is a member of the United Church of Christ, where she has served various churches as interim pastor, preacher and minister of education. She intends to extend her studies and matriculate in a Ph.D. program focusing on Hebrew Bible Studies.

In addition to serving on the ITC faculty, Dr. Margaret Aymer also serves as Secretary of the Faculty Council, and sits on the Committees of Curriculum, Education, and Planning, and the Task Force for Curriculum Revision. Dr. Aymer earned her Bachelor of Arts in History at Harvard-Radcliffe College in Cambridge, Massachusetts and her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament and Early Christianity at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Dr. Hopkins, previously an Assistant Professor of Bible and Theology at Crichton College in Memphis, Tennessee; received his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, his Master of Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California, and his Bachelor of Arts from Howard University, Washington, DC. Dr. Hopkins is an active member of several professional societies including the Obsidian's Society (wherein he serves on the editorial board for the society's publication: the *Journal of African American Christian Thought*), and is a board member of the NBEA. He is a committed family man of faith and presently serves as Assistant Professor of New Testament at the *Interdenominational Theological Center* in Atlanta,

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Georgia and is the editor of the seminary's academic journal, the *Journal of The Interdenominational Theological Center (JITC)*.

An international Bible scholar and the only (known) African American expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Qumran Studies, he has presented work and lectured on various related topics throughout America as well as in such countries as Italy, Scotland, Austria, England and Slovenia. Hopkins is the author of several articles including "Dead Sea Scrolls: Jerusalem Priesthood in the Scrolls," in the *Encyclopedia for the Historical Jesus* (2008); "The Authoritative Status of Jubilees at Qumran" in *The Journal Henoah: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity* (2009) and "Hebrew Patriarchs in the Book of Jubilees: A Descriptive Analysis as an Interpretative Methodology" in *With Wisdom as a Robe: Qumran and Other Jewish Studies in Honour of Ida Fröhlich* (2009).

ITC is a premier academy for afro-centric theological study in the world with six participating denominational seminaries, the Lutheran Theological Center in Atlanta, and the Harry V. and Selma T. Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship. It is the only theological seminary of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), 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).

The community is invited to share in this event and others at ITC. For dates and times of other activities, log on to [www.itc.edu](http://www.itc.edu) or call 404-614-6394.

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