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51st Charter Day and 12th Annual Costen Awards Gala

The ITC to present the President's Award to Rev. Dr. Alfred C.D. Vaughn for his for his contributions to ministry and the community.

Atlanta, GA (March 11, 2009) Rev. Dr. Alfred C.D. Vaughn has been nationally recognized for his outstanding service to the church and humanity and on Friday, April 24, 2009, at 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) will proudly present him with the *President's Award* at the at the 51st Charter Day and 12th Annual Costen Awards Gala.

The Costen Awards is named after an exceptional visionary leader and the fifth president of ITC, the late Dr. James H. Costen. The ITC will present nine awards this year to those individuals who have excelled in the world of business, civic and community affairs, government, religion and education. In addition, awards will be given for *TheoEcology* (Green Award) Travelin' Shoes (honors those who usually go unrecognized) and the President's Award which was instituted by current President Dr. Michael A. Battle in 2006. Dr. Battle commented, "Dr. Vaughn is the only person to have ever been elected to serve eight terms as president of The Baptist Ministers Conference in Baltimore, MD. He is among the most influential of the past presidents of the Hampton Ministers' Conference; and while I served as Chaplain at Hampton University, he was my primary mentor and continues to serve as a mentor, counselor, and friend. I am honored to have been ordained by Dr. Vaughn at Sharon Baptist Church — he continues to support me with his wisdom and knowledge in my current role as President of ITC."

Rev. Vaughn is a native of Baltimore, MD and began his ministry at Promised Land Baptist Church in Moneta, Virginia; then he was led back to his native roots at Grace Memorial Baptist Church in Baltimore. Currently, Rev. Vaughn is the pastor of his home church, Sharon Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD where he has made many contributions to the Baltimore community and has established an outreach ministry model coined as a "Base Community," that addresses many of the concerns shared by that community. Rev. Vaughn recognized the many needs of the community and as a change agent he created ministries such as the Food Bank, Tutoring Program, School Supply Program, "Adoption" Program linking youth with seniors and the Men's Fellowship Program, which mentors young men.

"Rev. Vaughn has always been a role model for me," said Congressman Elijah

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Cummings at Sharon Baptist Church in July 2008. Cummings presented Vaughn with a proclamation that was previously read on the floor House of Congress of the United States celebrating his 50th anniversary in ministry. He has been a role model for Baltimore and around the country, a preaching machine; he is an old fashioned preacher who also comes from his heart,” said Congressman Cummings.

“He is a pastor to other pastors and a minister’s minister. He lives what he preaches and comes with the true word of God straight up with no chaser,” according to Congressman Cummings at Sharon Baptist in an interview with bmore.com.

Dr. Vaughn has also been recognized as a “Living Legend” by the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. At the Hampton University Minister’s Conference, he was honored for his exceptional leadership. acknowledged Dr. Vaughn as the only person to ever serve as president for eight years.

The community is invited to join the ITC in celebration with Rev. Dr. A.C.D. Vaughn at the 51st Annual Charter Day and 12th James H. Costen “Tribute to Excellence” Awards. Other 2009 honorees include: Mrs. Pearl Hollis (*Travelin’ Shoes*), Judge Glenda Hatchet, (Civic and Community Service), Pastor Donnie McClurkin (Arts and Entertainment), Rev. Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D. (Religion), Senator Kasim Reed (Government), Judge Penny Brown Reynolds, (Emerging Leader) Mrs. Laura Turner Seydel (*TheoEcology* “Green”), and Mr. Willie Watkins (Business).

Every year the ITC celebrates the 1958 founding of the institution with Charter Day, which created one of the most unique --- ecumenical theological institutions in the world, bringing six different denominational seminaries together all housed under one roof. The ITC in Atlanta, Georgia has been training men and women for Christian leadership and service in the church and global community for a half-century.

The purpose of the Charter Day and Costen Awards Ceremony is not only to *give honor to whom honor is due* but also to raise unrestricted funds for the ITC. In addition to corporate sponsorship, the event’s Silent Auction of celebrity gifts garner significant contributions along with donations from individuals and various businesses.

The 51st Annual Charter Day and 12th Annual James H. Costen Awards Gala begins with a Silent Auction and Reception at 6 p.m., followed by an awards dinner at 7 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, GA. For additional information, contact the ITC Office of External Affairs at 404-527-7718.

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