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For Immediate Release

The Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ To Give Charge to 2010 ITC Graduates

(Atlanta, April 8, 2010) Bishop Charles E. Blake, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and Pastor of West Angeles COGIC in Los Angeles, will deliver the Commencement Address during the 2010 Graduation Exercise for Atlanta's Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). The exercise is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. on the campus of Morehouse College in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel, 830 Westview Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia.

ITC expects to award more than 100 seminarians with degrees to include: the Master of Divinity (M Div), the Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE), or Master of Arts in Church Music (MACM), and several dual degrees. Some will receive the Doctor of Ministry (D Min) or the Doctor of Theology (Th. D).

During the exercise, the institution will also bestow two honorary degrees to Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Bishop Ronald Cunningham, an alumnus of ITC and Presiding Prelate to the Eighth District of the CME Church since 2002 and Judge Brenda Hill Cole sits as Judge of the State Court of Fulton County. Judge Cole is Secretary of the Board of Gammon Theological Seminary where she has been a member for 26 years and also serves as chair of the Bylaws Committee.

ITC will also honor three retired professors as Professors Emerita/us—Dr. Melva W. Costen, former Helmar Emil Nielsen Professor of Music and Worship, Dr. N'dugu T'Ofori Atta, Adjunct Professor in the Area of Church and Society and Religions of the World, and Founder-Director of the Religious Heritage of the African World at the ITC, and Dr. Kenneth Henry, Professor of Church History.

Bishop Charles E. Blake, an alumnus of ITC's Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary, serves as Presiding Bishop of the 6 million member Church of God in Christ, one of our nation's largest denominations. He also serves as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Jurisdiction of Southern California comprised of more than 250 churches. Additionally, He is the pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ with a membership of over 24,000.

Bishop Blake was the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors for C.H. Mason Theological Seminary. He has served as an Executive Committee member on the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center. He has served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Oral Roberts University and member of the Board of Directors of the International Charismatic Bible Ministries. In 2006, he served on the Los Angeles Board of the Azusa Centennial Celebration and was an Advisory Committee Member of the Pentecostal World Conference. He is the Chairman and Founder of the Los Angeles Ecumenical Congress (LAEC). Bishop Blake's numerous awards, commendations, and accolades include: the 2007 Distinguished Leadership Award presented by the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston

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University, the 2006 Trumpet Award, the Salvation Army's William Booth Award, the Greenlining Institute's Big Heart Award, and the L.A. Urban League's Whitney M. Young Award for the year 2000. In 2003, Bishop Blake was awarded the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal for his work with Save Africa's Children and its mission to support orphanages throughout that continent.

Bishop Blake is married to Mae Lawrence Blake. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

Located in the Atlanta University Center, the world's largest center of African American higher education, ITC is a premier academy for afro-centric theological study in the world with six participating denominational seminaries, the Harry V. Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship that hosts 15 additional denominations, and a Lutheran Theological Center. It 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).

The public is invited to attend the Commencement Exercise. For dates and times of other activities, call 404-614-6394 or log on to www.itc.edu

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