



For Immediate Release

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Phillips School of Theology Hosts its 66th Founders' Celebration & 14th Pastors' Conference on Powerful-Lessons to Clergy about Self-Care

(December 17, 2009, Atlanta, GA) – Phillips School of Theology is excited to celebrate its 66th Founders' Day and 14th Pastors' Conference on January 11-14, 2010 at the Interdenominational Theological Center. This year's conference theme focuses on healing "From Good to Great: Through Clergy Self-Care."

Dr. Marvin Frank Thomas, President/Dean and Phillips alumnus, will welcome a host of powerful preachers, talented teachers and leaders of the community to their 66th Annual Founders' Celebration featuring: Dr. James Forbes, Jr., President and Founder of Healing of the Nations Foundation in New York; Dr. Luther Smith Jr., professor at Candler School of Theology; Bishop Lawrence Reddick III, the Presiding Prelate of the 5th Episcopal District of the C.M.E. Church; Bishop Kenneth Carter, Presiding Prelate of the 10th Episcopal District of the C.M.E. Church and Dr. Carolyn Akua L. McCrary, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the ITC.

As the Professor of Church and Community at Candler School of Theology Emory University, Dr. Luther E. Smith Jr. centers his research on the writings and correspondence of Howard Thurman, advocacy on behalf of children, and a spirituality of hope. Dr. Smith has a B.A. from Washington University, M.Div. from Eden Theological Seminary and Ph.D. from Saint Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Luther publications include: "*Howard Thurman: Essential Writings*," "*Howard Thurman: The Mystic as Prophet*." Smith also edited "*The Mystic as Prophet*."

Healing of the Nations Foundation, is a ministry committed to healing by providing encouragement and insight while connecting with other healers and resources to address issues of brokenness and alienation in communities and around the world. The President and Founder Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., was inspired to start this ministry because of Revelations 22:2 which refers to the leaves of the tree are for the healing of nations. Forbes considers being a leaf the same as being committed to be an instrument of healing in any situation in need of health, healing, balance, and wholeness. Dr. Forbes believes no one individual can address all the problems of our time, but each of us can be a leaf.



His 16 year tenure as elected editor of the Christian Index was the longest in the history of the C.M.E. Church. Lawrence L. Reddick III became the 51st bishop elected in the C.M.E. Church in 2002. Bishop Reddick was licensed to preach in 1966 in Athens, Alabama at Frazier Chapel C.M.E. Church by the Reverend R. E. Brooks. He was ordained deacon in 1968 and ordained elder in 1969 by Bishop E. P. Murchison. He was admitted into full connection in the North Central Alabama Annual Conference in 1972. He earned a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan University of Delaware, earned a M.Div. from Duke Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina and he has also been conferred the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College of Monroe, Louisiana, and the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Texas College, Tyler, Texas.

Dr. Kenneth W. Carter was elected 55th Bishop of the C.M.E. Church in the Thirty-Fifth Quadrennial Session and the Thirty-Sixth General Conference meeting in Memphis, Tennessee June 2006. He earned the B.A. from the University of Mississippi; Master of Music Education from Delta State University; and M.Div. from Howard University; and the Doctor of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. During his itinerant ministry, he served congregations in Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, DC and Texas. He also served as presiding elder in the Greenwood-Jackson and Columbus-Meridian Districts in Mississippi.

Dr. Carolyn Akua L. McCrary is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the ITC, in addition to teaching courses in psychology of religion. Dr. McCrary also obtained her M.Div. and Th.D. from the ITC. Dr. McCrary is a published author with titles such as: "A Response to Incarceration and Rehabilitation" in *Black Men in Prison: The Response of the African American Church*; "Interdependence As a Normative Value in Pastoral Counseling with African Americans" in *Recovery of Black Presence: An Interdisciplinary Exploration: Essays in Honor of Dr. Charles B. Copher*, Jacquelyn Grant and Randall Bailey" She has a profound passion for pastoral care of men, women and children and Womanist theology.

Phillips School of Theology prides itself in shaping men and women for a competent, relevant ministry that is priestly, pastoral, and prophetic. Phillips was named in honor of Charles Henry Phillips, the 20th bishop of the C.M.E Church. Phillips School of Theology is the only seminary of the C.M.E. Church and started on ITC's campus in August 1959 as one of the founding member affiliates. The ITC is one of the most unique training grounds in graduate theological education in America and is a consortium of six different denominational seminaries.

For more information on Phillips School of Theology Founders' Week call 404-527-7768, or contact the conference hotel Sheraton Gateway Hotel Atlanta Airport 1-800-784-9400. For more information about the ITC contact 404-527-7718 or visit our website www.itc.edu.

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