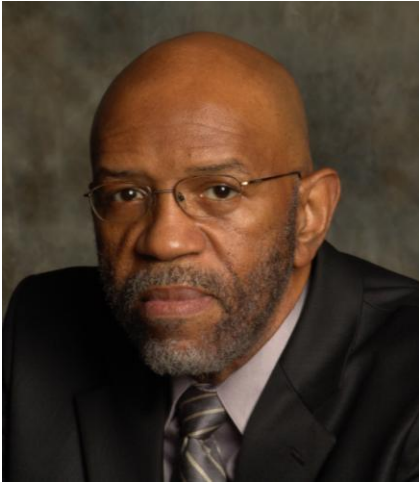


## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ITC ELECTS DR. RONALD PETERS AS ITS EIGHTH PRESIDENT



Atlanta, GA, July 23, 2010 - The Board of Trustees of The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) has called the Rev. Dr. Ronald Edward Peters as its eighth President. The action was taken Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> in a meeting of the Board. He is expected to assume his new appointment effective September 1, 2010.

Dr. Joseph Crawford, Chair of the ITC Board stated, "I sense a high level of excitement among my peers on the ITC Board with the selection of Dr. Peters to the office of President of ITC. We welcome him in celebration of this new beginning with another outstanding leader for an extraordinary institution."

Currently, Dr. Peters is the Henry L. Hillman Associate Professor of Urban Ministry and the first Director of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Metro-Urban Institute, an interdisciplinary program of religious leadership development for urban society.

Dr. Crawford expressed special appreciation to Attorney Jack Sibley who chaired the Presidential Search Committee and to those who worked diligently with him to conduct a nationwide search over the past nine months. He stated, "I commend the committee for their exhaustive search, selection of qualified candidates, and their nomination of an outstanding leader with experience in the Church and the academy." The committee was comprised of representatives from the Board of Trustees, faculty, administration, the Chair of the constituent seminaries Dean Council, staff, alumni association, and student body.

Dr. Peters commented, "Because of the incomparable significance of the ITC and its collaborative seminaries in preparing future leaders for the Church of Jesus Christ, I am humbled by this appointment. I look forward, with great joy, to working with the ITC board, faculty, staff, and students as we move together toward the long, bright, and glorious future of this exceptional institution of theological learning and leadership."

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Peters received his *Bachelor of Arts* degree from Southern University (Baton Rouge, Louisiana), the *Master of Divinity* degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Hamilton, Massachusetts), and his *Doctor of Education* degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Rev. Dr. Peters was

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ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and joined the Pittsburgh Seminary faculty following 18 years of pastoral leadership in the state of Florida. He is an internationally respected preacher, author, and advisor on social witness policy and urban theological education. Dr. Peters is married to Mary Smith Peters and they have two adult children.

Since September 1, 2009, ITC has witnessed exemplary leadership from Interim President, Dr. Thomas W. Cole, Jr., President Emeritus of Clark Atlanta University. Dr. Cole stepped into the leadership vacancy when President Barack Obama nominated and the US Senate approved former ITC president Dr. Michael A. Battle as United States Ambassador to the African Union in August 2009.

The ITC Board will work with the new president to coordinate his transition from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and for preparation to lead the world's premier academy for ecumenical, afro-centric theological education.

Founded in 1958, ITC has been training men and women for Christian leadership and service in the Church and global community for a half-century. The pioneer in ecumenical graduate study, the consortium comprises six different denominational constituent seminaries; Morehouse School of Religion (Baptist), Gammon Theological (United Methodist), Turner Theological Seminary (African Methodist Episcopal), Phillips School of Theology (Christian Methodist Episcopal), Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Church U.S.A.) and Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary (Church of God in Christ). Students of varying denominations beyond the six affiliates are welcomed to the Harry V. and Selma T. Richardson Ecumenical Fellowship. There is also a Lutheran Center at ITC.

For more information or interviews with President-Elect, Ronald E. Peters, call 404-527-7718.

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