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For Immediate Release



48 Set to Receive the Certificate in Theology from The Interdenominational Theological Center



Dr. James Allen Milner

(Atlanta – April 2008) --The **Interdenominational Theological Center** (ITC) will award a Certificate in Theology to 48 clergy and laity church leaders on Friday, May 2, 2008 during a graduation exercise from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the ITC Chapel. The program will feature as the speaker, The **Reverend Dr. James Allen Milner**, Senior Pastor of The Chapel of Christian Love Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia.

On completion of the certificate program, many graduates have gone forward to complete undergraduate study and enter the Master of Divinity program at ITC. Such was the case with the speaker for this year's graduation exercise. Rev. Dr. James Allen Milner started in the Certificate Program, proceeded to earn the M.Div. degree and in 2005 earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from ITC. In addition to serving as pastor of the Chapel of Christian Love for over 20 years, Dr. Milner also gives leadership to Community Concerns, Inc. the parenting body for several of the facilities that address homelessness throughout metro-Atlanta, such as Odyssey III. He chairs the Mayor's Faith Based Roundtable and is instrumental in garnering the support of faith and community leaders to address homelessness and attenuating conditions that adversely affect the population.

The members of ITC's Certificate of Theology Class of 2008 come from varied professions and walks of life, electing to enhance those lives with concentrated biblical study via an ecumenical curriculum and cross denominational exposure. The students in this class represent five different denominations and come from study groups in classrooms at six different sites, including: Atlanta

(ITC Campus), Augusta, GA (**Beulah Grove Baptist Church**); Philadelphia, PA (**Mt. Airy COGIC**); Columbia, SC (**Bethlehem Baptist**); and Mt. Pleasant, TX (**Cottrell Chapel CME**) and San Antonio, TX (**St. Paul UMC**).

The Certificate in Theology Program serves the needs of religious practitioners who have not completed an undergraduate degree program but want to participate in a structured program of theological study to enhance their knowledge and preparedness for ministry. Others who opt for the program are lay leaders in the Church, degreed professionals in the corporate arena – doctors, lawyers, engineers, educators, and others—all wanting to broaden their depth of biblical understanding toward personal enrichment and spiritual growth. The non-degree program can be completed within the course of one year earning the graduate a Certificate in Theology.

Located in the Atlanta University Center, the world's largest center of African American higher education, ITC is 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 community is invited to share in this and other upcoming events celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ITC. For dates and times of other activities, call 404-614-6394 or log on to www.itc.edu

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