



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 9, 2008

**FORMER ITC HOMILETICS PROFESSORS
ELLA AND HENRY MITCHELL TO BE HONORED AT
CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY**



(Atlanta, GA.—January 9, 2008) **Dr. Ella Pearson Mitchell** and **Dr. Henry H. Mitchell** are being honored with Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards from Claremont School of Theology on January 30 at 4 p.m. in Mudd Theater, 1325 N. College Ave. in Claremont, CA. The Mitchell's will also participate in a public forum on the topic "Black Contributions to the New Homiletic." A book signing and reception will follow, where they will receive distinguished alumni/ae awards from the School.

Ella and Henry H. Mitchell are widely known as pioneers in the field of African American preaching and religious education. They met and married as seminary students in New York before moving to California in the 1940s. Most recently, the Mitchell's were featured in the *Preaching by the Elders Chapel Series* at The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) where they both also served as Visiting Professors of Homiletics. In 2000, they were co-presidents of the American Academy of Homiletics. They both hold doctoral degrees from Claremont School of Theology and are authors of numerous books.

Together, they co-authored the autobiographical *Together for Good: Lessons from Fifty-five Years of Marriage* (Judson, 1999). A collection of their sermons has been published in *Fire in the Well: Sermons by Ella and Henry Mitchell* (Judson, 2003) as well as *Born to Preach: Essays in Honor of the Ministry of Henry & Ella Mitchell* (Judson, 2000).

Ella Mitchell holds the Doctor of Ministry from Claremont School of Theology and a Master of Arts in Religious Education from Union Theological Seminary of New York. She has served as Dean of the Chapel at Spelman College (Atlanta, Ga.) and Director of Continuing Education and Associate Professor of Christian Education at Proctor School of Theology (Richmond, Va.). Mitchell has enjoyed a long career with positions in public education, religious and theological education, and social justice ministries. She is author of four volumes of *Those Preaching Women* (Judson) as well as *Women: To Preach or Not to Preach* (Judson, 1991).



Henry Mitchell holds the Doctor of Theology from Claremont School of Theology, the Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, and an M.A. in Linguistics from California State University, Fresno. He served as Dean of the Faculty and Professor of History and Homiletics at Proctor School of Theology (Richmond, Va.). Mitchell also served as the first Martin Luther King, Jr., Professor of Black Church Studies at Colgate Rochester Divinity School (Rochester, New York), as well as Professor of Religion and Pan-African Studies at California State University, Northridge, and numerous pastorates. He is author of *Black Preaching* (Abingdon 1990), *Black Church Beginnings* (Eerdman, 2002), and co-author of *Soul Theology* (Abingdon, 1994) and *Preaching for Black Self-Esteem* (Lightning Source, 1994). A second edition of *Celebration and Experience in Preaching* (Abingdon) is due in 2008.

Claremont School of Theology is an accredited ecumenical and interfaith graduate school of The United Methodist Church in Claremont, CA.

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