

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

African American Baptists Collaborate to Support Haiti

Washington, DC – **February 12, 2010** - Five historic African American Baptist communities are collaborating to respond more effectively to the devastation in Haiti. The Presidents of these Baptist bodies have formed the **United African American Baptist Mission Collaboration** to enable a stronger response to benefit the people of Haiti.

The suffering being experienced in the Republic of Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12, 2010 earthquake motivated the Presidents of the largest African American Baptist communities to commit to link resources:

1. To create synergies in responding through relief and recovery for Haiti;
2. To advocate for just and compassionate policies toward Haiti; and
3. To engage in effective service delivery and sustainable community development in Haiti.

“This collaboration is essential for the kind of response that is needed in Haiti,” says Dr. Julius Scruggs, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA.

Dr. C. C. Robertson, President of the National Missionary Baptist Convention of America expresses, “100% support of this unprecedented collaboration.”

“The Collaboration will help us to enlarge the relationships and partnerships that our different Conventions now have on the ground” says Dr. Stephen Thurston, President of the National Baptist Convention of America.

Dr. Robert Murray, President of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention says, “A substantial collaboration among African American Baptists will be good for the people of Haiti and good for our witness to Jesus Christ.”

Dr. T. DeWitt Smith, Jr., President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention says, “This collaboration among Baptists will create a platform for even more expansive networking and cooperation.”

The member bodies of the collaboration – Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention; National Baptist Convention, USA; National Baptist Convention of America; National Missionary Baptist Convention of America; and Progressive National Baptist Convention – represent more than 10 million Christians in the United States, most of whom are of African American heritage.

Contact:

Dr. David Emmanuel Goatley

202.276.2920

degoatley@aol.com

dgoatley@lottcarey.org