



PAYNE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nov. 19, Founder's Day Worship Service

Wilberforce, OH, (October 14, 2015) Hundreds of guests, including, A.M.E. Bishops, alumni and friends are expected to attend Payne Theological Seminary's annual Founder's Day Worship Service on Thursday, Nov. 19. "The high-spirited celebration will honor our founders with gospel music, timely messages, and a transformational keynote sermon by Walter Fluker, a Boston University scholar and theologian," said Michael J. Brown, Payne's academic dean and interim president. Also, six Transformational Leadership Awards will be presented to high-achieving individuals or groups that have gone well beyond their expected duties to transform the Miami Valley community, Brown added. This free, public event begins at 7 p.m. at the Seminary's Chapel of the Living Savior, 1230 Wilberforce-Clifton Road in Wilberforce, Ohio.

About Walter Fluker: *Fluker is the Martin Luther King, Jr. professor of ethical leadership, editor of the Howard Thurman Papers Project and the director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Initiative for the Development of Ethical Leadership at the Boston University School of Theology. The founder of VisionQuest International, and Walter Earl Fluker and Associates, is a highly sought-after public speaker and consultant. He has served on numerous committees and boards, including the Urban League of Rochester, NY; the National Selection Committee for U.S. News & World Report America's Best Leaders; and the Board of Liberal Education (the flagship quarterly for the Association of American Colleges and Universities). His prior academic experience includes professorial and administrative positions at Vanderbilt University, Harvard College, Dillard University and Colgate-Rochester Divinity School – just to name a few. Ordained at Second Baptist Church, Evanston in June, 1980, he served as pastor of the historic St. John's Congregational Church in Springfield, Massachusetts and Dean of the Lawless Memorial Chapel at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Fluker earned a Ph.D. in Social Ethics from Boston University, a Master of Divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Seminary and a bachelor's degree in philosophy and biblical studies from Trinity College and the Doctor of Humanities, Honoris Causa from Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, North Carolina. He is married to Dr. Sharon Watson Fluker and is the father of four children and five grandchildren.*

About Payne Theological Seminary: *Payne Theological Seminary is one of the oldest Black seminaries primarily concerned with the training of men and women for the ministry. The purpose of Payne has always been, to prepare men and women of faith to be spiritual leaders, intellectual leaders, and agents of constructive social change in the church and world. Payne is proud to be the first Black Seminary in the United States with an on-line Master of Divinity Program. Payne, founded by the African Methodist Episcopal Church (1894), is dedicated to the preparation of African American and other leaders for ministry in the tradition of liberation, reconciliation, social justice, and the dignity of all humankind.*

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