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**Global anti-hunger and anti-poverty faith advocate to speak at  
Seminary's Founders' Day event**

**Wilberforce, OH, (November 1, 2016)** More than 100 guests, including, A.M.E. Bishops, alumni and friends are expected to attend Payne Theological Seminary's annual Founders' Day Worship Service on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 6 p.m. The free, public event will honor the Seminary's founding fathers and their legacy with a timely keynote message, worship and music. The event will be held at the Chapel of the Living Savior, 1230 Wilberforce-Clifton Road.

Springfield and Cedarville, Ohio native Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith will deliver the keynote address. As national senior associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement at Washington D.C. based Bread for the World, this friend of Payne is a collective Christian voice that urges our nation's top legislators to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad.

"Her position as a national and global strategist allows her to collaborate with churches from Africa and the African Diaspora to fight hunger, poverty and other social ills," said Dr. Michael J. Brown, Payne's interim president and academic dean. "We are proud of her achievements and honored to have her speak on our campus," he added.

Worship music will be provided by Dr. W. James Abbingtion, an amazingly versatile musician and scholar from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Dayton, Ohio's Wayman Chapel A.M.E. Choir and Wilberforce University's New Voices in Praise Gospel Choir.

**About Angelique Walker-Smith:** Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith is the national senior associate for Pan African and Orthodox church engagement at Bread for the World, a Christian faith-based organization that urges our nation's Congress, President's Office and other leading officials to end hunger and poverty at home and abroad. She brings global, national and local experience as a faith thought leader, journalist, speaker, and author.

Prior to her appointment at Bread for the World, Walker-Smith served as the executive director of The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis for 19 years, overseeing a broad range of ecumenical activities. Her diverse background also includes years of experience with the National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches, the American Bible Society and other faith groups. Walker-Smith is a graduate of Kent State University. She earned her master's degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1983, and went on to become the first African-American woman to graduate from the doctor of ministry program at Princeton Theological Seminary. She has also received many awards and recognitions.



**About Dr. W. James Abbington:** Dr. W. James Abbington is one of the nation's most respected choir directors, musicians, and authors. He is a popular speaker, performer and conductor at universities, conferences, symposiums and churches around the world.

He is currently associate professor of Church Music and Worship at Candler School of Theology, Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, he serves as the executive editor of the African American Church Music Series published by GIA Publications (Chicago).

Born in Gary, West Virginia, Abbington studied at Morehouse College (BA) and the University of Michigan (MMus, DMA). Prior to his tenure at Emory, he was a professor of music at Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland, and associate professor of Music and Chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**About Bread for the World:** Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity within and far beyond the communities where we live. Bread for the World has two affiliates-Bread for the World Institute and the Alliance to End Hunger.

**About Payne Theological Seminary:** Wilberforce, Ohio-based, 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. Its origin can be traced to the Ohio Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which met in Columbus, Ohio on October 18, 1844.

**For more information, contact Sonya Thomas, public relations and research development manager at (937) 376-2946, ext. 147.**