ITC receives $500,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

ATLANTA — Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded the Interdenominational Theological Center a $500,000 grant to fund its Capacity and Resource Enhancement (CARE) Project. ITC is one of six historically African-American theological seminaries to receive grants that support fundraising initiatives. The grants reflect the Endowment’s conviction that “historic African-American seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools are highly significant institutions, not only for their service to their constituent denominations and congregations, but to the entire enterprise of theological education nationwide,” according to Dr. Christopher L. Coble, vice president for religion at Lilly Endowment.

The grant will allow ITC to build upon a recent successful fundraising campaign, Saving Our ITC, which raised more than $1.3 million in donations and pledges from constituent seminaries, alumni, and friends. Grant funds will allow ITC to hire its first vice president for development, establish a development office and help ITC leaders engage the ITC board, alumni, constituent denominations and congregations in fundraising activities.

Support from the Endowment comes at a time when ITC has much to celebrate and much to share as it connects with people and organizations that have benefited from its effort, said Bishop C. James King Jr., chairman of the ITC board of directors.

“During the nearly six decades of existence, this institution has sent legions of well-educated ministers into pulpits across the United States and the world as preachers, pastors, scholars and
change agents,” King said. “Thankfully, the gifts we are receiving from our constituent seminaries, as well as from alumni and friends, will encourage external organizations and individuals to recognize the importance of our institution and to help sustain the irreplaceable work of the ITC.”

Through this funding initiative to historic African-American seminaries, Lilly Endowment is encouraging the seminaries to help one another grow in capacity building. The seminaries will do so by:

- gathering program leaders annually to share lessons learned and to network about best practices
- organizing a fundraising course for all participating seminaries
- hosting a “big-tent” gathering where the schools will invite their fundraising teams to build momentum for fundraising projects

ITC is thankful to the leadership of its president, Dr. Edward P. Wimberly, the board of trustees, administrative leaders, staff and faculty for their unyielding dedication to the success of ITC.