

# University of the District of Columbia

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*"...a new day,  
a new opportunity"*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **University of the District of Columbia to Host Leaders of Washington, DC Faith-Based Organizations**

*Washington, D.C.* – The University of the District of Columbia’s Office of Community Outreach and Involvement will host a meeting of several leaders of faith-based organizations in Washington, DC and vicinity on Tuesday, June 27, 2006. Over 40 clergy leaders are expected to attend this gathering, which will be held at the University’s Building 38, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Windows Lounge from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The meeting will feature a discussion of a ten-to-twenty year strategic plan developed by the clergy for the current and future leadership of the District of Columbia.

“The moral consciousness of the people of the District of Columbia will be recognized through these faith-based organizations,” said Rev. Dr. E. Gail Anderson Holness, Director of the Office of Community Outreach and Involvement for the University of the District of Columbia and an Associate Minister of the Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. One of the coordinators of this event, Dr. Anderson Holness says that the University is actively engaged with the faith-based community. “This gathering is

just another facet of the University’s mission to serve all residents of the District of Columbia,” said Dr. Anderson Holness.

In a letter inviting clergy participation, Dr. Anderson Holness and event facilitator Rev. Frank D. Tucker (1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Washington, DC) characterize the meeting as a calling together of clergy leadership to collaborate around a common agenda and to “fine-tune” the group’s strategic plan for the “health and well-being of our beloved community.”

The Faith Community of Washington D.C. and Vicinity is an informal coalition of leaders of area faith-based organizations who collectively focus on issues of mutual interest and concern. The group’s strategic plan calls for a commitment to the creation of social and economic diversity in all wards of the city. In addition to calling for continued growth and support for the University of the District of Columbia, the plan also focuses on issues such as housing, public education, employment, health care and justice.

This meeting is expected to attract representatives from numerous organizations in the Washington area, including the Wednesday Clergy Fellowship, the District of Columbia Interfaith Conference, the Council of Churches of Greater Washington, the National Cathedral and numerous other houses of worship in the capital region.

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The University of the District of Columbia is the fully-accredited sole public source for accessible, inclusive, affordable, and comprehensive public higher education in the District of Columbia and provides additional life-long learning opportunities. The University delivers quality instruction and uses student-centered approaches to empower and benefit both individuals and its local communities. The University, an urban land grant institution, is a very diverse community, a gateway to the world, and a significant investment engine for the District of Columbia. The University is located at 4200 Connecticut Ave, NW Washington, and is conveniently located at the Van Ness/UDC stop on the Red Line of Metro. For more information on other University activities,

contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications and University Spokesperson at (202) 274-5685 or visit the University's web site at [www.udc.edu](http://www.udc.edu).

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**NOTICE TO MEDIA:** Media are welcome to observe and report on this event to be held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Windows Lounge, Building 38, University of the District of Columbia on June 27, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Media interested in covering this event should contact Mike Andrews, Senior Director for Communications at (202) 274-5685.prior to the event.