



# Chicago Theological Seminary

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### For Immediate Release

#### Contact

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### **Historic Chicago Theological Seminary Breaks New Ground:**

*“Our Seminary, Our Future”*

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[**Chicago, IL**] – Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) will mark the beginning of construction on a new building with a groundbreaking celebration on October 15, 2009. Bernice Powell Jackson, the current President of the North American Region of the World Council of Churches, will join John H. Thomas, immediate past general minister and president of the United Church of Christ, in marking the occasion. Local Chicago Alderman Leslie Hairston (5<sup>th</sup> Ward) and Alderman Willie Cochran (20<sup>th</sup> Ward) will also be on hand.

The building, in keeping with the seminary’s commitment to the future, will be constructed to meet leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification standards. A 5,000 square foot green roof area will provide environmental benefits for the building. These construction plans reflect the Seminary’s commitment to sustainable technologies and environmentally friendly initiatives.

Thomas recently joined the seminary as Visiting Professor in Church Ministries and Senior Advisor to CTS President, Alice Hunt, after leading the 1.1 million member denomination with 5,000 congregations for 10 years. Throughout his career, Thomas has been a prominent religious and interfaith leader including being instrumental in developing the 1998 full communion agreement between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and three reformed churches: the Reformed Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the UCC.

Since 1855, CTS has been educating and developing religious scholars and ministers to transform the world toward great justice and mercy. CTS dedicated its current buildings in 1928 at the corner of 57th Street and South University Avenue. The new building will be located at 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Dorchester Avenue in the Woodlawn neighborhood.

**WHAT:** Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) Groundbreaking Ceremony

**WHEN:** October 15, 2009

1:00 p.m. Opening Statements at CTS, 5757 South University Ave.

1:15 p.m. Procession to new site

2:15 p.m. Groundbreaking Ceremony, 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Dorchester Ave.

**WHERE:** \*see timeline above for locations.

**WHO:** Featured guests include The Reverend Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson (World

Council of Churches), The Reverend John Thomas (immediate past President and General Minister of the United Church of Christ), Alderman Leslie Hairston (5<sup>th</sup> Ward), Alderman Willie B. Cochran (20<sup>th</sup> Ward).

Chicago Theological Seminary, a seminary of the United Church of Christ, serves Christ and the churches and the wider faith community by preparing women and men in the understandings and skills needed for religious leadership and ministry to individuals, churches and society. For more information, please visit [www.ctschicago.edu](http://www.ctschicago.edu).