Seymour InstitutE

for Black Church and Policy Studies

**Press Advisory**

**Dec 22, 2021**

What: Black and white church leaders unite against political violence and racial injustice

When: Thursday, January 6, 2022, 12-1:30 PM

Where: National Community Church, 700 M Street SE, Washington, DC

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On Jan 6, 2022 national black and white church leaders will convene a intercessory prayer vigil for the healing of the nation in Washington DC. On the first anniversary of the insurrection at the United States Capitol it is imperative that our most respected spiritual leaders, who stand for justice for the poor and for life, call our nation to a season of penitence. We, the church, have a moral responsibility to stand up against violence and confusion and be salt and light in this time of crisis. Though some were white supremacists, many of the people who stormed the Capitol last year were acting out of a sense of betrayal by their country, anger at economic loss and dismay at being ignored by political, cultural and religious elites. In response to this event church leaders are meeting in intercessory prayer for healing which, as a society and culture, we so desperately need.

The leaders of this prayer vigil include prelates from the predominantly black, 6-million-member Church of God in Christ and the Assemblies of God which has over 3 million adherents. Both denominations are global organizations with worldwide reach. The Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ, Bishop J. Drew Sheard and the General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Doug Clay, will lead the prayer service. Dr. Scott Hagan, President of North Central University in Minnesota, a leading Assemblies of God university, will moderate. Other leaders who will participate include Paul Winter, a leader of the Bruderhof Community. Students from a number of universities from around the country will attend.