



District of Columbia Baptist Convention

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### **Creech Called To Serve as D.C. Baptist Convention Executive Director/Minister**

Washington, D.C., March 29, 2011—Following a 15-month search, the D.C. Baptist Convention (DCBC) has called Rev. Ricky O. Creech to serve as its next executive director/minister. The DCBC's Executive Board voted to approve the Executive Committee's recommendation to hire Rev. Creech during a special called meeting that was held yesterday.

Rev. Creech is a church strategy consultant and the former head of the Birmingham Baptist Association in Alabama. Having been appointed as the youngest Association executive director in their history, Rev. Creech served the Birmingham Baptist Association from 1995 to 2006 and oversaw 158 churches. He has also served as interim pastor and provided consulting services to numerous congregations.

During his tenure as executive director—or what is known as director of missions in denominational life—he expanded the association's membership by bringing in dually-aligned African American congregations and assisting in the planting of inner-city GenX churches. He also came under fire for supporting a Birmingham church's call of a female senior pastor.

Rev. Creech has a passion for social justice and is an advocate for missional partnerships. He developed several need-meeting ministries, including a free health clinic in Alabama. Among his accomplishments was the creation of a disaster relief team that is now the largest in the state of Alabama. He coordinated international and national disaster relief efforts, including at Ground Zero in New York after Sept. 11, 2001.

Most recently, Rev. Creech was minister of administration and missions at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Decatur, Ga. He will begin his tenure at DCBC in April.

The DCBC's Executive Committee voted March 8 in a special session to accept the Search Committee's recommendation for Rev. Creech's appointment. The Executive Board was scheduled to vote on the Executive Committee's recommendation during a March 14 meeting. However, several Board members voiced concern about not having received enough information about Rev. Creech prior to the meeting. The vote was then postponed until March 28.

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The Search Committee, chaired by Rev. Dr. Ella Redfield, began looking for a new executive director/minister early last year, following the 2009 resignation of Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Haggray. Dr. Haggray served as DCBC's executive director minister for eight years before leaving to become the first African American pastor of the 208-year-old First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C.

“We are excited about the gifts and background that Rev. Creech will bring to the D.C. Baptist Convention. He is a visionary, passionate leader and, we believe, the right person to move the Convention forward into the future,” said Dr. Redfield.

The committee held town hall meetings, a pastor's forum and conducted a survey to gather input from DCBC members. It received more than 60 applications and interviewed seven candidates before selecting Rev. Creech.

The District of Columbia Baptist Convention is a cooperative of more than 150 member churches working together to strengthen Baptist congregations, promote diversity and advance God's kingdom in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Founded in 1801, DCBC is triply aligned with American Baptist Churches USA, the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. DCBC is also a member of the Baptist World Alliance, a fellowship of Baptist conventions and unions around the world.

