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April 3, 2007

Texas Pastors Respond to Islamic Prayer Opening State Senate
Say that appreciation of diversity does not require acceptance

Houston, TX – An inter-denominational, inter-racial coalition of pastors reaching across the state of Texas has responded to reports that state Senate leaders have invited a Muslim Imam to give the opening prayer on April 4. The concern over the oppressive impact of radical Islam worldwide and the pressure to accept cultural and religious diversity prompted the pastors to speak out.

“I do believe we should respond to this event to make sure that our governing officials and the citizens of the State of Texas understand the Christian position. Appreciation of diversity in people is not tantamount to acceptance of their gods,” stated Pastor Ross Cullins, a member of the Executive Committee for the Houston Area Pastor Council. “... This State and Nation were established and have been sustained on a foundation of Biblical principles and practices. The only reason to attack the foundation of any structure is to initiate the process which leads to ultimate destruction.”

Pastor Cullins concluded by saying that, “As watchmen on the wall, it is our job to sound the alarm and to issue a warning when danger is discerned. A house divided cannot stand. Neither can a State, nor a Nation. Perhaps this is really more about those State officials who profess to be Christian who allowed it to happen in the first place than about the Islamic prayer.”

Bishop Charles Bledsoe of Waco said that, “...Their diversity move has set a precedence and now any can request the opportunity to offer a prayer of their religious faith.” He expressed the concern of many leaders in the Christian community that politicians seem to be increasingly concerned about accommodating any and every belief system, regardless of what those beliefs represent.

Dr. Sterling Lands of the Austin Area Pastor Council affirmed the statements and the growing realization that, “... we know that these days are coming and are upon us,” again articulating the concern that not one single Muslim controlled nation in the world allows religious freedom nor is friendly toward private or public expression of Christianity.

Executive Director Dave Welch concluded the statement by affirming the pastors’ organization’s commitment to protecting the rights of religious freedom for all as guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. “We find it troubling and ironic that this would occur during the Christian Holy Week and it exhibits a great insensitivity and disrespect to the majority of citizens in this state who approach Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday with great reverence.”