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**\*\*\* Press Release \*\*\***

Asbury United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. is pleased to announce its “*2021 Ebony Bishops Preaching Series*.” Through this series, Asbury offers its national and historic pulpit to the Ebony Bishops of the United Methodist Church to bring prophetic words on the issues of the day, share messages of hope during this critical period in the history of our nation and denomination, and to exhort the faithful to make effective witness.

Asbury holds a significant place in the history of United Methodism, as one of the oldest African American churches in the denomination. It has been dedicated to social and racial justice from its beginning when in 1836 its founders sought relief from discrimination and established their own place of worship located at Eleventh and K Streets in Washington, D.C. The church remains on that site to this very day. The Reverend Dr. Ianther Mills is the Senior Pastor of Asbury. Dr. Mills envisions the series growing into an ongoing speakers series offering preaching and scholarship that will strengthen the connection across the United Methodist Church and its witness to the world.

The “*2021 Ebony Bishops Preaching Series*” is being presented on the third Sunday of each month during the 10am morning worship service\* at Asbury, which will be live-streamed. The featured preachers are as follows:

- January 17 Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling, Baltimore-Washington Conference
- February 21 Bishop Woodie W. White, former Bishop-in-Residence at Candler School of Theology, Emory University
- March 21 Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Western Pennsylvania Conference
- April 18 Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, South Carolina Conference
- May 16 Bishop Tracy S. Malone, East Ohio Conference
- June 20 Bishop Julius C. Trimble, Indiana Conference
- July 18 Bishop Sharma D. Lewis, Virginia Conference

Asbury is a church that welcomes all and seeks to transform lives through its witness in the Nation’s capital. The “*2021 Ebony Bishops Preaching Series*” will present moments of challenge and opportunities for recommitting ourselves to faith in the Christ who liberated us and sharing the gospel that all people may be free. Please join us in our Zion march as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

\*Note: The worship services are planned to be virtual and will be live-streamed at [www.asburyumcdc.org](http://www.asburyumcdc.org) and on YouTube and Facebook.