

A Unique Testimony about the Black Church...by Two White Pastors

Valley Forge, PA – In February, a death knell sounded for the black church. The debate over the future of this venerable institution began on *The Huffington Post*, and has continued through traditional and internet media, including *The New York Times*. Now, William H. Crouch and Joel C. Gregory, two white pastors and academics, offer their unique perspective in the new Judson Press book *What We Love about the Black Church: Can We Get a Witness?*

In sharp contrast to the notion that “the Black Church is Dead,” Crouch and Gregory celebrate its vitality, gifts, and strengths in this engaging and thoughtful new book. They identify twelve aspects of the black church that highlight its impact and contributions, including:

- Preaching
- Laughter and Light
- Mentoring
- Honoring elders
- Hospitality
- Gratitude
- Empowerment
- Praise and Respect

In the book, more than two dozen African American Christian leaders respond to what Crouch and Gregory “love about the black church.” These leaders include:

- Sheila M. Bailey
- Bryan L. Carter
- Cynthia L. Hale
- Donald Hilliard Jr.
- Major Lewis Jemison
- A. Louis Patterson Jr.
- Melvin V. Wade Sr.
- Ralph Douglas West Sr.

Their contributions and endorsements recognize the book’s passion for and testimony to both the past and future of the black church, and celebrate its potential to bridge the racial divide and cultural chasm that have segregated the Body of Christ in this country.

About the Authors: WILLIAM H. CROUCH JR., MDiv, DMin, is president of Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. In 1998, he was selected a Distinguished Fellow at Regent’s Park College, University of Oxford. In 2003, he was elected a member of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Previously he served as vice-president of development at Carson-Newman College.

JOEL C. GREGORY, MDiv, PhD, is professor of preaching at George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University, a Distinguished Fellow of Georgetown College, and founder and president of Joel Gregory Ministries. Recently he was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. International College of Preachers, which recognizes those who embody the principles of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

About Judson Press: Founded in 1824, Judson Press – a publishing ministry of the American Baptist Home Mission Societies – produces Christ-centered leadership resources for the transformation of persons, congregations, communities and cultures.

Format: Trade Paper	Size: 5.5" x 8.5"	Pub Date: May 2010
ISBN: 978-0-8170-1644-9	Pages: 144	Distribution: Spring Arbor/Ingram Book Co.
Category: Pastor’s Resources	Price: \$16.00	Anchor Distributors, STL Distribution, Baker & Taylor

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