The Black Church Prophetic Tradition and Trinity United Church of Christ

- This is an attack on the Black Church’s historic prophetic concern for social justice – the Black Church in America was born out of the crucible of slavery, lynching and Jim Crow. It was the prophetic voice and protest of the Black Church that opened up America’s democracy for the right to vote for women, 18 year olds at war in Viet Nam, people with special needs and English as a second language.

- The Bible tells us Jesus was born to set the captives free ---within the context of Liberation Theology – this is an opportunity for America to change the trajectory of racism, sexism, classism and homophobia in the church and global community. (in your own words talk for 30 seconds about the need for prophets to preach against oppression in America and around the globe...Post Enlightenment and Post Entitlement)

- Jesus Christ taught, preached, was crucified but resurrected for the suffering of the “least of these.” The critical questions that needs to be asked is - why does the media and others attack ministers who preach teach and preach about social and economic injustices against oppressed men, women and children?

- For many years in America, some white Christians taught Black people were heathens and did not have souls. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed before he died that the 11 o’clock hour on Sunday is the most segregated in America – Dr. King’s prophetic teaching is still relevant in the year 2008 in America.

- America will commemorate the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr within a few weeks on April 3. In Dr. King’s prophetic social justice ministry he depended on Biblical scripture and called on the words of great Black prophets such as -- Fredrick Douglas, Ida B. Wells, Harriet Tubman, Richard Allen, Sojourner Truth, Fannie Lou Hamer and others to summon America and the rest of the world to the historical fight for social justice.

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered because he followed the Christian tenets of love for humanity. Why does the media and some divisive leaders in America thrive on the perpetuation of polarization and continue to assassinate the character of African American pastors who call for justice and equality in America; yet, many of these same divisive leaders come to use the pulpits in predominantly African American churches during local and national election seasons?
Trinity United Church of Christ and the Black Church Prophetic Tradition

- The Black Value System of Trinity United Church of Christ was written by a charter member and adopted by the congregation. At the heart of the Black Value System for Trinity United Church of Christ is the Christian tenet of the notion of love of self and community in order to love and serve others – as the Biblical scripture says, “love thy neighbor as thy self.”

- The African American Church was born out of the crucible of the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade. Trinity United Church of Christ is located on the impoverished south side of Chicago. During the early 1970s within the context of discrimination in America, founders of Trinity United Church of Christ developed “Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian” because America’s core values fostered shame and poor self-esteem upon Blacks because of their physical features (color of their skin). Dr. King had been assassinated but had left the powerful hope that people would one day be judged by the “content of their character and not the color of their skin.” This saying was and is a saying of hope in the midst of despair. Others questioned their faith in God as Black Christians, given the role of Christianity and Christians in supporting centuries of injustices.

- The United Church of Christ is 90 percent European American. Trinity United Church of Christ is not a cult; it is a member of the United Church of Christ denomination. John Thomas the United Church of Christ President and General Minister says, “Trinity United Church of Christ is a great gift to the wider United Church of Christ family.”

- Trinity United Church of Christ’s ministry is inclusive and global – it is a generous contributor to funding new churches in America and beyond. There are United Church of Christ congregations that are predominantly European American, Latino, Samoan, or Asian. We have visitors from various cultures including European Americans almost every Sunday and they attend our conferences and other worship services and education seminars.

- Dr. Jeremiah Wright has preached 207,792 minutes for the past 36 years at Trinity United Church of Christ – 207,792 minutes only on Sundays -- this does not include weekday worship services, revivals and preaching engagements across America and around the globe to ecumenical and interfaith communities.

- To present Dr. Wright’s ministerial legacy within a 15 or 30 second sound bite is an injustice to Dr. Wright’s global ministry as a biblical scholar, theologian and pastor who has intentionally worked as a
follower of Jesus Christ to heal broken lives in America and around the globe for almost four decades. Dr. Wright was the first pastor in Chicago to post an anti-apartheid sign outside the church in protest of injustice in South Africa.

- Dr. Wright’s living sermons include -- providing housing complexes for senior citizens, day care centers for children, ministries for people living with HIV/AIDS; establishing holistic ministries for hospice care, human rights for same gender loving people, inmates and families of the incarcerated; and feeding hundreds of people and providing an emergency safety net and financial support for those who are unemployed or at risk due to the economic recessions. Dr. Wright ministered to one young man while he was in prison and today this man is a proud practicing physician.

- Rev. Otis Moss, III continues as the undershepherd of Trinity United Church of Christ and its prophetic ministries by focusing on Community, Culture. His vision is Trinity United Church of Christ as a place where children are loved; elders are respected; families are strengthened, males are taught to be men; girls are empowered to be women; marriage is encouraged; Africa is a part of one’s theology; immediate needs of the community are on the people’s hearts; the Bible has authority and scholarship is not demonized; being different is not considered a deficiency; one can be single, complete and saved; Christ is the head; the Holy Spirit is welcome; where liberation and salvation meet.

- Rev. Moss received his BA in Religion and Philosophy from Morehouse College where he served as Student Government President and graduated with honors. Rev. Moss graduated from Yale with a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in Ethics and Theology. Before moving to Chicago to become the Pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ, Rev. Moss was the pastor of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia.

- Rev. Moss has done extensive research in the areas of African-American culture, theology and youth development. Belief.Net named Rev. Moss as one of the future religious leaders who will impact the African-American Church. He is the son of Dr. Otis Moss, Jr. who has been the pastor of the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church for 31 years. Otis Moss, Jr. is a product of the civil rights movement (having marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) and has now passed this legacy on to his son.