

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Lifetime of Faithfulness Honored in a Unique, First-Time Ever Bishop's Confirmation Ceremony**

Houston, TX – January 20, 2007 – For over 40 years since he has been in ministry, Dr. Ira Van Hilliard has been known for two things. First, is his faithfulness to the call of God on his life and second, is his flair for doing things outside of the norm. On February 23, 2007 Dr. Hilliard will be formally confirmed, to the honorable office of Bishop, in which he now functions. What may surprise some, however, is the uniqueness of Dr. Hilliard's Bishop's Confirmation Ceremony. Just the name alone is significant. To date, Dr. Hilliard will be the first Pastor to be Confirmed as a Bishop rather than Consecrated.

He and his wife, Dr. Bridget Hilliard, as directed by the Holy Spirit, have built a mega-ministry that has over 28,000 members and spans three cities in the state of Texas. In addition to his leadership of New Light Christian Center Church, Dr. Hilliard also founded the Association of Independent Ministries (A.I.M.) which has a growing membership of over 728 churches. These churches and Pastors are from various backgrounds and denominations and look to Dr. Hilliard as a spiritual father or mentor.

As a prominent leader in the world of Christendom, Dr. Hilliard is known for the hours he spends teaching Pastors how to develop their ministries through commitment to God, family, and excellence. From pioneering the "one church, multiple locations" concept of ministry to his no-holds-barred style of teaching that is simplistic, yet hard-hitting and life-changing, Dr. Hilliard is a man who has dedicated his life to serving God. His Confirmation comes as no surprise to those who already call him Bishop due to this unwavering commitment to Pastors across the world. "The office of Bishop is an appointment from God," says Dr. Hilliard.

Giving utmost respect to the tenants of tradition, Dr. Hilliard's ceremony will follow many of the normal procedures of a Bishop's Consecration with a Processional and Bishop's Council whose members include Bishop Eddie L. Long, Bishop Paul S. Morton, Bishop Harold Ray, and Bishop David Copeland. Where the ceremony differs is in its uniqueness to the Word of Faith order. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 pm at New Light Church's East Campus – 7317 East Houston Road.

For more information about the Confirmation Ceremony visit [www.newlight.org/bishopconfirmation](http://www.newlight.org/bishopconfirmation) or call 281-875-4448.

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