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Local First Ladies to Gather in the Name of Raising Money to Support the United Negro College Fund and LeMoyne-Owen College

COGIC First Lady Sister Louise Patterson will present the Woman of Distinction award to former United Methodist first lady Mrs. Jerry Dunnam.

MEMPHIS, TN (June 28, 2012) Local first ladies will unite Saturday, June 30 at 1 p.m. at LeMoyne-Owen College's 2nd Annual First Ladies Tea to salute one another and raise money for the college and the United Negro College Fund. First ladies who have set themselves apart with their spiritual and community work will be honored.

This year's "Woman of Distinction" is none other than Mrs. Jerry Dunnam, former Christ United Methodist first lady and wife of Reverend Maxie Dunnam. Jerry and Rev. Dunnam established churches in Georgia and Mississippi prior to Rev. Dunnam taking his message of the Gospel online at maxiedunnam.com.

Sister Louise Patterson, wife of the late G.E. Patterson, former presiding bishop for the Church of God in Christ (COGIC), will present the award to Mrs. Dunnam during a ceremony that also will honor Elder Sherrilyn Williams ("Woman of Excellence"), wife of World Overcomers Outreach Ministries Church founder and pastor Apostle Alton R. Williams; and, Middle Baptist Church-Whitehaven's First Lady Irene Baskin ("Woman of the Year").

In keeping with the tradition of First Ladies being renowned for their flamboyant hats, the event also will feature a hat parade with the first lady with the grandest hat winning the award for "Best Hat".

The Tea with Mistress of Ceremonies Mary Beth Conley of News Channel 3 will be held in the Robert Lipscomb Dining Hall on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College. To donate to UNCF and/or LeMoyne-Owen College, call 435-1527 or go online at www.loc.edu.

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The American Missionary Association founded The LeMoyne-Owen College in 1862 to educate freedmen and runaway slaves at the Union Army's Camp Shiloh in Shiloh, Tennessee. The school relocated to Memphis a year later, but was destroyed during race riots in 1866. Lincoln Chapel, as the school was then known, was rebuilt and reopened in 1867 with 150 students and six teachers. Lincoln Chapel was renamed LeMoyne Normal and Commercial School in honor of benefactor, physician and abolitionist Dr. Francis Julian LeMoyne and relocated to its current site at 807 Walker Ave in 1914. After more than 50 years of steady growth, LeMoyne merged with Owen College in 1968. Today, The LeMoyne-Owen College has a student body of more than 1,000 students and offers 4-year degrees in five disciplines: Business and Economic Development; Education; Fine Arts and Humanities; Natural and Mathematical Sciences; and, Social and Behavioral and Sciences.