

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4th Ellen Bozman Award Focus on Faith Communities' Contributions

In awarding the 4th Ellen M. Bozman Affordable Housing Award to two Arlington faith communities, their leadership and a lead architect, the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) is calling the event *Faith+ Vision + Action*.

At the Award celebration, to be held on Sunday December 9, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, AHS will honor Jerry Morris, Architect Michael Foster and The Church at Clarendon and Dr. Leonard L. Hamlin Sr. and the Macedonia Baptist Church.

"Arlington's faith communities have long made important contributions to affordable housing," said AHS Board Chair DR. Larry Padberg. "Ten congregations have been long-time sponsors of the Alliance and have worked with us to secure funding for affordable housing, as well as to support affordable housing site plans. They have been key partners in the Alliance's public education campaign *Arlington for Everyone: Housing for a Diverse and Sustainable Community*. We are grateful for their contributions."

"We realize that many faith communities are not in a position to contribute land, but we hope that by honoring these congregations, we show how important it is to find low cost land where we can", said AHS President Jack Cornman.

"We also applaud The Church at Clarendon and Macedonia Baptist Church for their commitment to the complicated process of creating Committed Affordable Units (CAFs). For The Church at Clarendon, that also meant withstanding several years of litigation."

The Church at Clarendon developed vPoint, a mixed income building (70 committed affordable units; 46 market rate) located right across from the Clarendon Metro. The site also houses the largest daycare center in Arlington. vPoint recently received the "Best Affordable Housing Development" award at the 2012 Governor's Housing Conference. The award is presented to the housing development that is "innovative in its concept and design, and exceptional in meeting the needs of the intended community".

"The Church at Clarendon is honored to be recognized for its contribution to the community," said Jerry Morris, Chair of Trustees of the Church at Clarendon. "Throughout our eight-year journey from, conception, approval, construction and finally leasing of the apartments, one of the most encouraging aspects was the enduring support we received from the faith community, as well as the organizations and individuals that advocate for and support affordable housing within Arlington."

The Church hired Arlington-based architect Michael Foster to help bring its vision into architectural reality. Foster preserved the existing church steeple while creating multi-use facility.

“Sometimes design transforms traditional conventions of how we understand land use, architecture, and even stewardship in a community”, said Foster. “This project is a prototype for design diversity, to better serve people of all backgrounds.”

Working with AHC, Inc., an Arlington-based nonprofit affordable housing developer, The Macedonia Baptist Church developed The Macedonian in Arlington’s Nauck neighborhood. The Macedonian offers 36 affordable units across from the Church. The site also houses the Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation (BAJCDC) and a business incubator for start-ups.

“The Macedonia Baptist Church is grateful and privileged to have participated in the effort to build the Macedonian. What began with Vision was accomplished through Faith and the coming together of valued partners who recognized and responded to a need”, said Pastor Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin.

“We are thankful for the individuals and families that will have an opportunity for a place to call home, a great community they are able to be a part of and prospects they can build upon. The Macedonia Baptist Church is committed to serving our community and building for the future and we are appreciative to have worked with partners who saw more than just the brick and mortar needs but the families who could be served”.

About The Church at Clarendon

Established as the First Baptist Church of Clarendon in 1909, the Church was renamed The Church at Clarendon in 2005. The Church developed vPoint, a mixed income building (70 affordable; 46 market rate) located right across from the Clarendon Metro. Jerry Morris was the Chairman of the Church Development Team and President of the development corporation. The site also houses a Child Development Center and is registered with the US Green Building Council as a LEED certified building. This project won the Urban Land Institute Smart Growth Award.

Traditional, contemporary, Hispanic, Ethiopian and Vietnamese congregations share the Facility. Rev. David Perdue is the Interim Senior Pastor.

The Church sponsors several mission activities including the Capital Area REACH Program, committed to helping young people become successful in school, and providing food support to the Three Strands Community Church in Foggy Bottom, D.C. Church members serve many communities globally, including in Honduras and South Africa.

For more information about The Church at Clarendon: <http://www.1bc.org/>

About Jerry Morris

Jerry Morris is a native of Arlington and grew up in the Clarendon area; he is currently the Director of Facilities for a Government entity responsible for medical research and development, with 6 laboratories located in the continental United States and 3 in overseas locations.

In his volunteer roles, Jerry serves as the Chair of Directors of the Views at Clarendon Corporation, the non-profit entity which is general partner of 1210 North Highland Limited Partnership, the ownership entity of vPoint Apartments.

In addition, Jerry currently serves as Chair of Trustees and Finance Chair for the Church at Clarendon.

About Michael Foster

An architect and urban planner for over 25 years, Michael has received local and international design recognition for commercial, institutional, government, and urban design projects. His work has been published in *Progressive Architecture*, *American Planning Association Magazine*, *the Wall Street Journal*,

In Form, as well as many other professional and trade journals. He is a guest speaker at regional and international colleges and universities on topics from transit oriented design, sustainability practices, community based planning, and innovations in housing.

Michael is the recipient of multiple AIA Design Awards including the VSAIA Honor Award for design and the AIA Award for Distinguished Achievement.

He is also well known for his civic involvement, serving as past Chair of both the Planning Commission and the Chamber of Commerce and as the current Chair of Leadership Arlington.

For more information about Michael's firm, MTF Architecture: <http://www.mtfa.net/>

About vPoint

vPoint is a mixed-income apartment community, with 70 committed affordable units and 46 units at market rates. Among the 70 affordable units are 12 supportive units for persons with special needs, fifteen 2-bedrooms and six 3-bedrooms. It is designed to meet LEAD Gold environmental standards. It also contains a cyber café and Great Room for the use of all residents.

A lengthy legal history preceded the current site, built with support from the County's Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF).

In 2004, the Arlington County Board approved a General Land Use Amendment, a rezoning and a site plan application for a mixed-use church and multi-family residential building on the First Baptist Church site.

Shortly after, a group of Clarendon residents filed a lawsuit. In 2006, the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that the Board violated its own Zoning Ordinance on a technicality. The Church and the Corporation re-filed their applications, which were approved in February, 2007.

Clarendon resident Peter Glassman then filed suit on First Amendment grounds. In December 2010, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit affirmed the Eastern District of Virginia's dismissal of the case.

For more information about vPoint: <http://vpointapts.com/>

About Macedonia Baptist Church

What was to become Macedonia Baptist Church began in 1908 in the home of Bonder and Amanda Johnson; the Church was formally established in 1911.

Since becoming Pastor in 1996, the Rev. Dr. Leonard Hamlin has lead an effort to strengthen the surrounding neighborhood through the creation of the Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation and the Family Life Center. Macedonia Baptist assembled surrounding land for the purpose of community development and conducted an internal discernment process about its primary mission. It offers multiple services to the community, including food distribution and educational seminars and workshops.

For more information about Macedonia Baptist Church: <http://www.macedoniabaptistchurch.ws/>

About Dr. Leonard L. Hamlin, Sr.

Dr. Hamlin received his Bachelors of Business Administration Degree (1983) from the Howard University School of Business, Master of Divinity Degree (1994), and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Howard University School of Divinity (1996). He has served as a Ford Foundation Research Fellow and was recipient of the Benjamin E. Mays Scholarship for Education and Commitment to the ministry. Dr. Hamlin completed the (SLI) Summer Leadership Institute Continuing Education Program of the Harvard Divinity School in April 2005. The executive training program is for clergy, lay leaders, and community activists who are involved in faith-based community and economic development.

Among his many activities are serving on the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee at Virginia Hospital Center and the WETA Community Board of Advisors. Dr. Hamlin is also a Founding Member of VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Development). He has received the Leadership Legacy Award in the Non-Profit Sector from Leadership Arlington.

For more information about Dr. Hamlin <http://www.macedoniabaptistchurch.ws/content.cfm?id=308>

About The Macedonian

The Macedonian is a partnership among Macedonia Baptist Church, the Bonder & Amanda Johnson CDC, and AHC, Inc, with financial support from Arlington County. All 36 apartments are affordable for households earning at or below 60% of area median income (AMI), including five committed to supportive housing, six for households earning 50% or below of AMI and 17-2 bedroom units.

The building also houses the Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation (BAJCDC) and a business incubator for start-up businesses. The Macedonian received EarthCraft Virginia Certification, becoming the first new construction multifamily building to achieve the highly regarded green building certification in Arlington.

For more about The Macedonian: <http://www.ahcinc.org/TheMacedonian.html>

About AHS

Established in 2003, the Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) is a non-profit organization that seeks to increase the supply of affordable housing in Arlington County and the region through public education, research, and action. Over 30 faith communities, civic organizations and housing providers are supporting sponsors. For more about the Alliance, affordable housing facts and figures and the AHS public education campaign, *Arlington for Everyone: Housing for a Diverse and Sustainable Community*, visit www.AllianceForHousingSolutions.org.