

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) attended the 57th Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service at the Washington National Cathedral. He was joined by Reverend Delman Coates, Senior Pastor of the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Maryland.

“It was an honor to attend the Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service today and I’m proud that I could attend this historic event with Reverend Coates as my guest,” **stated Congressman Hoyer**. “Reverend Coates is an important leader in the Fifth District and throughout our state, and is committed to equality and social justice. I’m pleased he joined me today, and I look forward to continuing to work with him on behalf of all Marylanders.”

The Inaugural Prayer Service is an interfaith service to celebrate President Obama’s Inauguration through prayer, readings, and musical performances. The service has been a tradition since President George Washington’s Inauguration in 1789.

Since February 2004, Reverend Coates has served as the Senior Pastor of the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the congregation has grown in excess of 7,500 members, and in October 2009, the Church was named one of the 100 fastest growing congregations in the U.S. by Outreach Magazine. Reverend Coates ministers in churches, seminaries, and conferences across the country, and is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Morehouse College Board of Preachers, the NAACP, a board member of the Parents Television Council, a board member of the National Action Network, and an officer in the Hampton Ministers’ Conference. In the Summer of 2008, he was honored by The African American Pulpit as one of the “20 To Watch.”