

For immediate release

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## **Urban Ministries Names Patrice Nelson as Executive Director**

*Durham, N.C. –April 30, 2009* –Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) announced today the hiring of Patrice Nelson as its new executive director. UMD is a community-based organization that has provided emergency services such as food, clothing, shelter and counseling to people in need in Durham since 1983. Nelson will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization as well as the long-term strategy for assisting those in need in Durham.

“This economic environment is of course very challenging for UMD. Not only are many of our funding sources and loyal donors having to tighten their belts, but this climate also brings more people to our door needing assistance,” said Greg Rowland, chairman of UMD’s board of directors. “We’re excited to have someone with Patrice’s credentials and experience join the UMD team. Her proven leadership, bridge-building and communication skills are exactly what UMD needs to weather the current economic climate and help us achieve the highest level of service we can provide to the community.”

Nelson is a Presbyterian minister originally from Washington, D.C., who has spent the last 28 years in Philadelphia, Pa. Prior to joining UMD, Nelson served as the deputy director of Laurel House, a Philadelphia-area domestic violence shelter, education and counseling center. For almost a decade, Nelson served in various pastoral roles with multiple Presbyterian churches to develop and manage mission and outreach programs including community food programs and services to benefit inner city residents.

Nelson holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in urban planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree in divinity with a focus on urban ministry from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

“Patrice has decades of experience working with community organizations, agencies and leaders to manage services that assist people in need. Having a leader who will keep the urgency of UMD’s mission in the forefront of the community’s mind while looking for creative ways to

manage our resources is crucial. We believe Patrice is just the person to help us achieve this,” said Rowland.

### **About Urban Ministries of Durham**

Urban Ministries of Durham (UMD) is a community-based organization that has provided emergency services such as food, clothing, shelter and counseling to people in need in Durham since 1983. Its community kitchen serves between 450 and 500 meals per day. Its shelter houses 80 beds for men, 26 beds for women and nine rooms with private baths for families. In emergency situations the shelter can house up to 175 people with an average of 125 a night. UMD also assists those in need through its community closet and food pantry. UMD provides additional services such as its Hope Recovery Program, a six-month live-in drug and alcohol rehabilitation program and Clean Sweep, a high quality, affordable cleaning service for businesses in Durham. For more information on the many services provided by UMD, please visit [www.umdurham.org](http://www.umdurham.org).

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