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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To Political/Religion Editors

**SEN. CLINTON FIRST TO CONFIRM PARTICIPATION AT
GLOBAL SUMMIT ON AIDS AND THE CHURCH:
*Third Annual Saddleback Church Event Works to Bring Together
Presidential Hopefuls for Conversation on HIV/AIDS Crisis***

LAKE FOREST, Calif., Nov. 15, 2007 – Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) is the first of six invited presidential candidates to confirm participation at the third annual Global Summit on AIDS and the Church to be held Nov. 27 through Dec. 1 at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Calif. and hosted by pastor and “The Purpose Driven Life” author Dr. Rick Warren and his wife Kay.

The Warrens have extended invitations to leading presidential candidates. Five invitees, including former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.), former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, have expressed a desire to participate and are currently working on scheduling issues.

“Inviting politicians from different perspectives to the Summit is not a political decision – it is a humanitarian and Christian action,” said Rick Warren. “When millions are dying each year, we’re interested in lives, not labels. We want everyone to become concerned about the AIDS pandemic.”

Sens. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) and Obama spoke at last year’s Summit due to their previous work with AIDS and poverty. The Global Summit on AIDS and the Church was established on the conviction that AIDS cannot be ended without mobilizing the Churches’ global distribution network, massive pool of volunteers and local credibility in villages around the world. This year’s Summit will feature more than 50 world-class speakers and experts. Sessions will include leaders from business, government, medicine, non-profit and ministry sectors who are working locally and globally in an attempt to arrest the growing AIDS pandemic.

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“The HIV/AIDS pandemic is so large that it can’t be stopped without the combined efforts of leadership in the public, private/profit and faith sectors,” said Kay Warren. “Obviously, that includes whoever is elected as the next president of the United States. We are urging all of the current presidential candidates to continue and expand the international efforts of AIDS relief of the current administration. To stop what has been started would mean the deaths of literally millions of women, children and men who are alive today solely because of treatment and prevention strategies available through the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).”

The HIV/AIDS initiative of Saddleback Church is a key part of the P.E.A.C.E. plan, an overarching humanitarian strategy launched three years ago. This worldwide effort is to mobilize 1 billion church members to **P**romote Reconciliation, **E**quip servant leaders, **A**ssist the poor, **C**are for the sick and **E**ducate the next generation. One session of the Summit will feature a report about the P.E.A.C.E. plan progress and the lessons learned over the past three years as a result of sending out more than 7,500 members to test the plan in 69 countries.

“I commend Rick and Kay Warren for their work to fight HIV/AIDS,” Clinton said. “Our churches have a powerful role to play in raising the consciousness of the nation and the world to this pandemic and urge compassion for the sick and the suffering. When we come together, seeking the common good, we can find solutions to our biggest challenges and reinforce our faith that a call to action can change lives. I am honored to participate in this ‘coming together’ at the third annual Global Summit on AIDS and the Church.”

Rick and Kay Warren are international advocates for the HIV/AIDS crisis. Kay chronicles her journey into the world of HIV/AIDS advocacy in her debut book “Dangerous Surrender” (Zondervan, November 2007). For more information about the Warrens and the 2007 AIDS Summit, visit www.AIDSandTheChurch.com.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: To pre-credential for attendance and to gain additional information, please visit the media Web site at www.AIDSandTheChurch.com.