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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 6, 2010

There will be a memorial service Thursday evening, Oct. 7, at 7:30 in the Blanton Center, 718 N. Poindexter St., on the campus of Mid-Atlantic Christian University. The service is for the community, churches, Mid-Atlantic students, and the entire Mid-Atlantic family. It is a call to prayer for the families most deeply affected by the tragedy of Oct. 3, for the Mid-Atlantic family, and for peace rather than violence.

The university continues to deal with the crisis which occurred on our campus Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010. Our hearts are heavy with the death of a beloved student, Jonathan Schipper of Havelock, NC. We fly our flags at half-staff to honor him.

Jonathan loved Mid-Atlantic, and Mid-Atlantic loved him. Last night our on-campus students held an outdoor prayer service. We continue to conduct various services to minister to the students, faculty, and staff.

We ask that everyone pray for the families that are most deeply touched by this tragedy. God is the one who can heal these families.

Mid-Atlantic continues to cooperate with the Elizabeth City Police Department. Because this is an on-going criminal investigation, we will have no comments about the details of the incident. Please contact the Elizabeth City Police Department for details. We have no additional comments about the report released by the Elizabeth City Police Department at 3:05 p.m., Oct. 5, 2010. We concur with their report.

The safety of Mid-Atlantic is a priority. We thank the Elizabeth City Police Department for their heightened presence during this time. We have taken steps to assure a safe environment.

We continue to provide ministers and counselors to serve the Mid-Atlantic family. We thank all those who are serving and willing to serve our university family.

We welcome the media to contact the Office of the President if they need any current information. We do ask that you allow our students to return to their academic pursuits.

The love and support sent via phone calls, emails, and messages of various sorts continue to be overwhelming. At this time we are unable to personally respond to each, but your prayers are carrying the university family as we grieve. Please respectfully offer your love and prayers to the Schipper family.

Classes continue today, Oct. 6, 2010. Decisions about the university's academic calendar are being made daily.

We express our thanks to the community of Elizabeth City. The messages on the marquees, phone calls, cards, etc. are deeply appreciated.

We express our thanks to our supporting churches. Your prayer services in your churches are vital at this time.

Bad things happen in good places. Mid-Atlantic remains committed to educating extraordinary Christian leaders.

We anticipate issuing another press release tomorrow.