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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The university is overwhelmed by the response to the prayer service held Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanton Center. The service, A Call to Prayer, brought together the Elizabeth City community, area churches, Mid-Atlantic students, and the entire Mid-Atlantic family. Those in attendance were called to pray 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 mourn the events of Oct. 3. We continue to encourage everyone to pray, especially for the families involved.

There continues to be an on-going investigation, and Mid-Atlantic continues to cooperate fully with the Elizabeth City Police Department. Because of the on-going criminal investigation, we are unable to comment about the details of the incident. Please contact the Elizabeth City Police Department for details.

We continue to have a coordinated effort to serve the needs of students, faculty, and staff. Counselors and local ministers have maintained a constant presence on campus, and we are deeply appreciative of their service to our campus. A broad range of services have been available. They have included but have not been limited to pet therapy, general counseling, professional counseling, and pastoral counseling.

We remain overwhelmed by the expressions of love and concern that continue to pour onto campus. The prayers, letters, calls, and gestures of friendship have been of great comfort.

Classes today at the university have been canceled. The university is closed next week for the regularly scheduled fall break. Unrelated to the recent tragedy, previously scheduled electrical repairs will result in some of the campus being without power. Internet and email will be out of service the first half of next week. Classes will resume Monday, Oct. 18, following fall break.

The university expresses deep appreciation to her graduates and alumni for their love and care. Many are trained in ministry and counseling, and they have been of great service to their alma mater this week. The university also emphasizes her gratitude for the many community ministers and counselors who have volunteered their services and support. She is also grateful for the outpouring of love from the Elizabeth City community and her officials.

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 for additional security for the well-being of our students.

Requests for information should be directed to the Office of the President.

We anticipate no further press releases at this time.