

**OneJax and WJCT Partner to Present
Public Prayer Debate
--June 17th Event Will Argue Both Sides of Issue--**

Jacksonville, FL (May 27, 2008)—Should prayers offered at local business, government and civic gatherings be inclusive, in a way that embraces all faiths, or should they reflect the personal beliefs and faith traditions of the individual presenting the prayer? This is the question that will be addressed in a formal debate on June 17th hosted by OneJax, in conjunction with WJCT Public Broadcasting.

The topic will be debated by two teams of debaters made up of students from the Edward Waters College, Jacksonville University, Florida Coastal School of Law and Stanton Preparatory High School.

The event is being made possible by a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, as a part of its “Prayer in America” series. A portion of the documentary will be shown during the event.

“OneJax has a long history of working within the community on the issue of public prayer,” said Bobbie O’Connor, OneJax Executive Director. “In addition to public dialogues among clergy representing different faiths, one-on-one meetings with government and business leaders, and youth dialogues, OneJax has published Public Prayer Guidelines, which can be downloaded from the OneJax Web site — www.onejax.org.”

Local clergy, educators and public leaders will judge the debate, which will be held at the WJCT Studios. Karen Feagins, morning news reporter for 89.9 WJCT-FM, will serve as moderator. A reception to further conversation will follow the debate. The debate will be filmed for future editing, production and possible broadcast.

“WJCT is proud to partner with OneJax to bring this thought-provoking program to the First Coast community,” says WJCT President and CEO Michael Boylan. He adds, “The content offered in this series is an example of programming that goes beyond the broadcast and encourages public dialogues among the citizens of our community.”

The event is free and open to the public, although OneJax will accept donations. Because space is limited, RSVP’s are required. Those interested in attending should contact OneJax at (904) 354-1JAX (1529) or info@onejax.org.

WJCT is the non-profit community public broadcasting station serving a population of over 1.7 million in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia with its non-commercial television and radio programming. WJCT provides in-depth and educational programming for the First Coast including: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, and Union counties in Florida and Camden, Charlton, and Glynn counties in Georgia.

OneJax is an interfaith organization that promotes respect and understanding among people of different religions, races, cultures and beliefs. Through education, community building and advocacy initiatives, OneJax works to overcome bias, bigotry, and racism. It is the intention of OneJax to serve as an ethical center among all people to assure that everyone in Northeast Florida is treated with respect and dignity. To learn more, visit www.onejax.org.