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RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY PROVIDES SPECIAL COVERAGE OF 2008 NATIONAL PARTY CONVENTIONS

Washington, D.C. — ***RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY***, the acclaimed PBS newsmagazine program produced by Thirteen/WNET New York and hosted by Bob Abernethy, will feature special reports on the Democratic and Republican conventions in programs to be distributed consecutively August 22, 29 and September 5 at 5 p.m. ET (check local listings) to public television stations nationwide.

As part of the program's ongoing "2008 Campaign" coverage, managing editor and correspondent Kim Lawton begins her series of convention reports on August 22 with a look at the impact of religion on both parties as they head into the November election. Among those interviewed will be Leah Daughtry, CEO of the Democratic National Convention and a Pentecostal pastor in Washington, D.C., and best-selling author and pastor Rick Warren of Saddleback Church, who will have hosted the first joint campaign appearance by John McCain and Barack Obama to talk about leadership, faith and values.

The following week, August 29, Lawton will be on location in Denver at the Democratic National Convention to examine the Democrat's new faith-based outreach strategy and the significant role religion will play during the convention.

The series concludes on September 5 with a report from the Republican National Convention in Minneapolis where Lawton will explore the challenges facing the Republicans as they try to hold on to the support of social conservatives and reach out to faith-based moderates.

Major funding for ***RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*** is provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. with additional support from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, the Henry Luce Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and individual supporters. Executive editor and host for the program is Bob Abernethy; executive producer is Arnold Labaton. Thirteen/WNET executive-in-charge is Stephen Segaller.

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