



CASI enters Agreement with the Collective Banking Group May 13, 2006

Church Affinity Services, Inc. (CASI) recently entered into an Agreement to partner with the Collective Banking Group (CBG) for the purpose of securing cash rebates for their covenant churches.



“We want our more than 200,000 members to enjoy discounts while supporting their church as they shop – this Program allows us to accomplish this objective;” said Rev. Nate Butler the Affinity Representative for the Collective Banking Group.

The Collective Banking Group, Inc. (CBG) was formed in 1993 as a result of concerns raised by pastors and church members in Prince Georges County and the Metropolitan D.C. area regarding inequitable access to services provided by local banks and businesses. Churches were faced with severe challenges due to redlining and other questionable practices.

As a result, a group of pastors met to discuss means by which to gain economic empowerment and justice in their business dealings. After several meetings, the group decided to join its efforts under the name The Collective Banking Group of Prince George’s County, (MD) and Vicinity. The Rev. Jonathan L. Weaver, pastor of Greater Mt. Nebo AME Church, was elected president and has served in that capacity for more than ten years.

In 1992, the CBG began the process of interviewing 16 banks, for the purpose of establishing a covenant relationship, whereby churches and its members would receive favorable banking services. By 1995, the CBG had signed its first covenant with four (4) banks: Riggs Bank, Industrial Bank, Enterprise Federal Savings Bank, and the Harbor Bank of Maryland.

Since its inception, the CBG has continuously grown to its present membership of more than 150 churches, representing over 200,000 persons. As of 2004, CBG member churches have been approved for more than \$300-million dollars in loans and have on deposit in excess of \$130-million dollars with area banking partners. The collaboration between the CBG, its member churches, covenant banks and business alliances have offered significant savings and other benefits to the community at-large.