

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

The National Black Church Initiative Decries the Behavior of Rev. Juan McFarland and Rev. Craig Lamar Davis *They Knowingly Infected Women with HIV Virus*

Washington, DC The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a coalition of 34,000 African American churches constituting 15.7 million members decries the behavior of Rev. Juan McFarland and Rev. Craig Lamar Davis for knowingly infecting black women with the HIV virus. This type of behavior is completely unacceptable and criminal. It is inconsistent with the ethics and teaching of Jesus which they preach and teach. The Black church will have none of this. They have violated the oath of their office and they should be denied any moral gratitude that comes with the office of being a minister of the Gospel. Their actions were wrong and morally reprehensible and have cause great harm to the body of Christ. We condemn their behavior in the strongest sense of the word and unequivocally see their behavior as having a long-term negative effect on those of us who share the Gospel of the Good news in an increasingly dying and dark world.

Moreover such behavior makes it more difficult for the black community to gain control of the HIV/AIDS crisis when those who are responsible for setting the example become part of the problem. We must defeat AIDS in the black community. We have what it takes to do so.

NBCI strongly believe that their rights and privileges as clergy should be suspended and that they should turn in their license to preach to their local and national religious authorities. We will not recognize either of them as a clergy in good standing with the church. Those who are in the church and those who are outside the church and are critical of the church cannot ever say that we do not publicly chastise our own.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, these events represent the fact that the Black church is failing its members because we cannot control those who are supposed to be in leadership of the church. May God have mercy on our souls and may God forgive us for the acts of these brethren and the acts of other clergy whose sins have yet to be revealed.

In keeping with the ethics and teachings of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we will not be party to the lynch mob who will condemn these former ministers to death. We believe that there is sufficient grace and mercy in Christ that forgiveness can take place and their souls can be restored. The reason for our unequivocal condemnation of their behavior is that we continue to pray for restoration and their relationship in Christ and our deep love for them as children of God. They still are our brothers in Christ and Christ still will forgive them provided that they will forgive themselves and for what they have done to others in their immediate family and the church family. They deserve our prayers on behalf of their souls. This proves that all of our actions have consequences and part of the loving act of God through Christ is that the consequences sometimes deserve jail. In this case, jail is appropriate and loving.

The Black church offers its sincere prayers for all the women and their families and their church members who have been victimized by the actions of their two pastors. The church cries for their pain, their sense of uneasiness and their distrust they have developed as a result of this deep and deadly betrayal from the men of God. The church continues to cry for their situation. We ask almighty God in his infinite wisdom to continue to bless, keep them and have mercy upon all of us.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.