

# National Black Church Initiative

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## NBCI Continues to Hear Silence from LGBT Leadership

### *Open Dialogue Remains Necessary to Bridge Differences*

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African American churchgoers, is continuing efforts to generate civil discourse between the Black Church and the gay community, despite continued radio silence from leadership of leading LGBT organizations.

“Civil discourse remains paramount for communities who are experiencing differences in guiding principles” said Rev. Anthony Evans, NBCI President. “NBCI has always stood our ground for traditional marriage, but we do not endorse the growing suspicion and mistrust that has grown between our communities due to a lack of dialogue. To consider us anti-gay and not pro-Christian for our religious beliefs is ignorant, and I am disheartened that our outreach efforts have not been reciprocated by leaders in the gay community.”

In the months following the Supreme Court’s decision on gay marriage, NBCI continually reached out to gay rights organizations and LGBT leadership, most notably the Human Rights Campaign. It was NBCI’s hope that coming together would help to prevent any verbal, physical or emotional abuse against the gay community following the rulings. Sadly, these calls for communication were not reciprocated.

“Open dialogue remains the best and most appropriate solution going forward and NBCI will continue to invite the leadership of the gay community to visit our houses of Christian worship as we seek understand one another and engage in respectful dialogue. Should prominent gay leadership continue to ignore our calls for conversation and understanding, we will have to assume that they are not willing to accept our historic gesture of goodwill.” Evans remarked.

## **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](http://www.naltblackchurch.com).