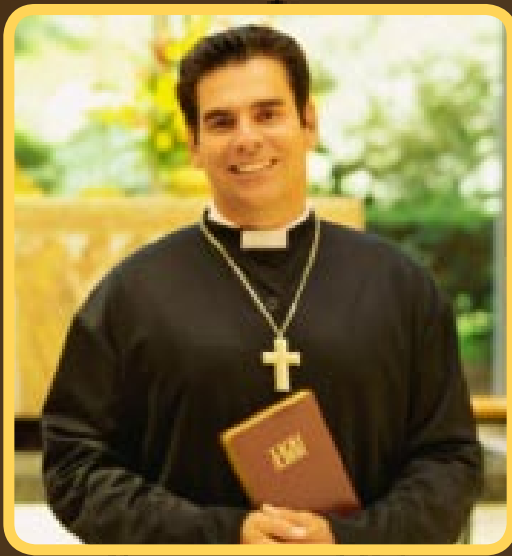


T H I S F A R B Y F A I T H :



# 12 Things

*African American and Latino  
Clergy and Congregations*

Can Do to Promote Reproductive  
Health and Justice



National Black Church Initiative, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
1025 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1130, Washington, DC 20005  
[www.bci-rcrc.org](http://www.bci-rcrc.org)

*The church is arguably the single most important institution in both the African American, and Latino communities therefore it must address issues of reproductive health and justice. It is the obligation of the church to help ensure that there are programs and policies in place to allow individuals to make responsible, informed decisions about their reproductive health.*

### For Congregants

*“I would not have you ignorant” 1 Thessalonians 4:13*

- Begin ministries on reproductive and other health related issues
- Participate in Peaceful Presence, a respectful, legal, non-confrontational interfaith response to anti-choice harassment and picketing at health clinics
- Conduct adult Bible classes and study groups on gender and reproductive health
- Plan and participate in reproductive health and justice awareness activities in the community

### For Clergy

*“Speak for those who cannot speak for themselves; for the rights of those who are destitute.” Proverbs 31:8-9*

- Write sermons in support of reproductive justice
- Advocate in support of reproductive justice issues to elected officials and policy makers
- Join state Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice affiliates
- Escort patients to and from reproductive health clinics
- Provide All Options and Reproductive Loss counseling to women, couples, and families

### For Youth

*“In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters will prophesy”*

- Advocate for comprehensive sexual health education in public schools
- Have a movie night for youth and young adults during National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month
- Request faith-based sexuality education programs for youth in your congregation

In 1997, the Religious Coalition successfully launched the **National Black Church Initiative**, a program of the MultiCultural Programs Department. It was developed under the leadership of Reverend Carlton W. Veazey, President and CEO, to assist African American clergy and laity in addressing teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, sexuality education and reproductive health in the context of African American culture and religion.

The **Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice** brings the moral power of religious communities to ensure reproductive choice through education and advocacy. The Coalition seeks to give clear voice to the reproductive issues of people of color, those living in poverty, and other underserved populations. It is a membership organization organized in 1973 by people of faith.



For more information, please contact the MultiCultural Programs Department/Black Church Initiative of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, at 202 628-7700.

1025 Vermont Avenue, NW,  
Suite 1130, Washington, DC  
20005. Phone: 202-628-7700  
Email: [bciinfo@rcrc.org](mailto:bciinfo@rcrc.org).  
Website: [www.bci-rcrc.org](http://www.bci-rcrc.org)

