

## Cain Hope Felder, Ph.D. Professor and Author

### Endorsement of the National Black Church Initiative Methodology Approach



“As Professor of Biblical Studies at Howard University School of Divinity and Chair for the Biblical Institute for Social Change, Inc, I am proud to be part of the leadership team of the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) headed by my former student Rev. Anthony Evans. I have worked closely with Brother Evans in his capacity as NBCI’s President and observed close up his engagement of many difficult social issues that have come to challenge the ministry of African American churches across our Nation. NBCI has taken courageous and firm steps in Defense of traditional Heterosexual Marriages, while simultaneously defending the human rights of person variously predisposed to same sex relations. Rev. Anthony and I have championed efforts to encourage African American men to become more visible and active within the Black Church which offer many new opportunities for their personal growth and professional advancement.

I would highlight this new NBCI effort as the first of three specific programs making the public witness of NBCI extremely important. This emphasis on heightening the visibility of spiritually empowered African American men is being coupled with renewed strategies by the Black Church to reclaim the many un-churched—those who may have left and those who have never been members of any church! My own BISC has joined this effort to attract more Black men to community-building and family strengthening programs designed to get Black men back into church and to keep them in church through an evangelistic effort in cities like Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York. This campaign has posters, flyers, and 100 men going out every Saturday fishing for Black men like Jesus’ disciples.

The second is NBCI’s bold teachings aimed at creating science-based, faith-centered holistic health initiative that tackles some of the most difficult diseases that plague the African-American community like obesity, malnutrition, diabetes, AIDs, and cancer.

Thirdly, NBCI does not just issue press releases on items that affect and impact the Black Church but they also organize protests in front of agencies and even churches that question the authority of God, either through their regulations or their immorality. This is why NBCI uses social media to galvanize and organize the Black Church around issues before the FCC or ballot issues that affect the Biblical understanding of the institution of marriage and opposing the legalization of marijuana in the African-American community. These are issues upon which most within our churches can verbally agree, but have not sufficiently engaged with practical steps and strategies. NBCI is trying to offer fresh light and direct assistance, specifically because too many believe that the Black Church is losing its effectiveness as an agency of social change and institutional transformation! NBCI is national initiative that does not conform to the dictates of popular culture. I stand with its leadership which is emboldened to withstand the fiery darts from others who might too easily be intimidated by institutional establishments.”

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