

National Black Church Initiative

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AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTERS DEMAND DEAN POLLARD'S IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION

*Ministers Protest His Leadership of Howard University School of
Divinity*

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, joins area Christian ministers and leadership along with Howard University alumni calling for Alton B. Pollard's resignation from his position as Dean of Howard University School of Divinity. Ministers cite his support for same-sex marriage as a moral Biblical contradiction and a violation of the Church's teachings as the central reason behind their opposition of his continued leadership at the School of Divinity.

We are staging a protest on the steps of the Howard University School of Divinity on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 12 noon. Join us at 1400 Shepherd Street, NE Washington, DC 20017.

A portion of society has said that gay marriage is acceptable. However, homosexual marriage is defined as a mortal sin under church teachings. Dean Pollard's stance is in direct opposition to both the black church theology and Christian teachings. This is the first known public call for the resignation of a Dean of a divinity school by the African American religious leadership and we will see results.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI says, "This is a sad day for me as a Howard University School of Divinity alumnus. Calling for the resignation of my Dean has been no easy decision. However, Dean Pollard's defiance in the face of clear Biblical precepts has given me no other choice. We are determined to keep this protest alive until our goal is achieved – his resignation. Dean Pollard has severely harmed the cause of Christ."

It is not the fact that Dean Pollard espouses controversial views on same-sex marriage, sexuality that is most troubling, or that he vocalizes these beliefs. Rather, many of us are unsettled by the fact that Dean Pollard's comments were delivered without the necessary qualifier that his opinion was not that of the Howard University School of Divinity. Howard is one of many divinity schools in the area and Dean Pollard is the only Dean who has publicly supported same-sex marriage, thereby committing Howard University's School of Divinity to a particular theological stance that is, for most of us, inconsistent with Biblical tradition. His public response to this divisive position has been nonchalant, while to most his statement was of incredible import.

Rev. Mark McCleary, Pastor of First Adventist Church of DC says, "I thought I would never live to see a dean of a divinity school support same-sex marriage in clear violation of traditional Scripture. He must go."

Please contact the Howard University School of Divinity to call for the Dean to resign at (202) 806-0500. Contact NBCI to learn how to support our cause and participate in this protest on Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 12 noon.

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.