Clergy for the Personhood of Black Pre-born Boys and Girls

<u>Statement of Concern</u>: In the black community of Rochester 36% of all pregnancies end in abortion. In the last 10 years alone the fertility rate in the black community has dropped by ¼. *The black population is no longer replacing itself, and is facing extinction*.

A person is an organism with unique human DNA governing his or her own maturation from conception to natural death. Every person bears the image of God. Any person, therefore, demands our utmost dignity, respect, and protection—man, woman, boy and girl—from the womb to the tomb.

The black community understands well what happens when a small group of people decides to use a different definition of personhood: slavery and death. Abortion represents one small group of people deciding that boys and girls in the womb are not people. The black community has overcome the similar manipulative traps of past tyrants and can do so again in the face of abortion disguised as women's rights.

Commitment: We, the leadership of the black community recognize the personhood and dignity of every pre-born boy and girl. We commit to leveraging our power and influence to teach, exhort, and even rebuke our community to protect the personhood of all blacks from conception to natural death. An attack on the dignity of one of the least of these children is an attack on the personhood of all.

<u>Signatories:</u>

Providence Crowder
Pastor Frank Doig
Ronald A. Domina
Rev. Morris Duhart
Rev. James R. Harden
Rev. Dr. Willie Harvey
Pastor Luis D. Hernandez
Phillip Hounshell

Organizations:

First Bible Baptist
RCCM
Bethel Christian Fellowship
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church
CompassCare Pregnancy Services
Peace Baptist Church
Light of the World Church
Rochester Bible Baptist Church

Walter B. Hoye II
Bryan Kenville
Chaplain Ayesha Kreutz
Matthew Kreutz
Tony Martorana
Fr. Anthony Mugavero
Alvin Parris III
Debra B. Parris
Pastor Douglas A. Smith
Kirstan Smith
Cuevas Walker
John Wright

Fredrick Douglass Foundation of CA
Joy Community Church
Fredrick Douglass Foundation of NY
Fredrick Douglass Foundation of NY
Joy Community Church
Holy Apostles Church
Joy Community Church
Joy Community Church
Grace Community: Mission 2013
Place of Hope Pregnancy Services
Joy Community Church
Assembly of God