



*United against bigotry.
Ambassadors for equality.
Educating for change.*

P.O. Box 14 - Cathedral Station - New York, NY 10025

ANNUAL FORUM

“Empowering Ourselves: Using our Faith as the Anchor.”

On October 20, 2012 at the Adam Clayton Powell Jr. State Office Building, LGBT Faith Leaders of African Descent held their annual fall forum. Over 100 people packed the gallery and spent an enriching and empowering day listening to two guest speakers and attending workshops.

Our two speakers for the day were: Bishop Yvette Flunder, presiding bishop of the Fellowship, a multi-denominational fellowship of African American Christian leaders and laity representing over 56 churches and faith based organizations in the United States, Mexico and African.

The second speaker was Sharon Lettman-Hicks, executive director and CEO of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC), a civil rights organization dedicated to empowering LGBT people.

The workshops varied and responded to interests expressed by members and supporters: “We tell our stories/you tell yours” was designed to encourage participants to learn and become more effective in framing their personal stories to the public in such a way that we can attempt to change values and attitudes against same-gender loving individuals.

A second workshop, “Youth on the Move” brought together youth and young people as panelists to talk about their lives, their experiences as LGBT individuals, their journeys and their current status and situations.

A third workshop, “Gomorraah: The propaganda Against the LGBT Community” “spoke to the ways in which the Bible is used against LGBT people. The workshop

leader used his extensive knowledge of history, culture and social/political context to help participants analyze and consider more critically portions of the bible that have been used to condemn and punish us.

A fourth workshop, “Does God love me because I am LGBTQ?” focused on the strength and divine in all of us. Rejecting and disavowing negative stereotypes and attributes given to LGBT people, the workshop leader revealed, through scripture and song, the beauty and value of us.

Workshop leaders included: Minister Michael Elam, Rev. Dr. Lisa Robinson, Ronald Moore and Electra Cummings assisted by representatives from GLAAD, and Minister Renair Amin.

The day was joyous and rewarding for all.