

*“Healing Grace – Shepherds Gathering:  
A Dialogue on The Black Church and Homophobia”*



***Eight Things African American Pastors, Faith Leaders and Ministries  
Can Do to Create Peace, Safety and Justice  
for All God’s Children in Our Churches:***

*“We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Colossians 1:9b (NLT)*

- **E**xamine your heart and the heart of the church to ensure it has the capacity to be the place of refuge, hope, peace and safety it strives to be.
- **Q**uestion hate and hate filled, mean spirited words or statements that discourage fellowship, religious participation, the ability to minister to someone who has publicly identified as LGBT.
- **U**nite the body of believers under the banner of peace and justice in personal and corporate worship.
- **A**ssess ministry areas where abuse, discrimination might occur (youth ministries, music ministry, ministerial staff) and respond with biblical teachings about stereotyping, prejudice and compassion.
- **L**ive the Great Commission without limits!
- **I**nvest time in prayer, dialogue and reflection that is specific to the concerns and experiences of Christian LGBT members.
- **T**each tolerance as a part of Discipleship and Evangelism.
- **Y**ield to the Spirit in the journey to love unconditionally.