

A Prophetic Protest: Mass Incarceration and Sentencing Reduction in Louisiana Symposium

Theme: Is There Room at the Table for Me?

There is a dilemma of high incarceration rates that are tearing families apart in Louisiana and across the country. We have people that have died waiting for access to affordable, quality health care. Just as Jesus stood up for poor, disenfranchised people and spoke against injustice [and] inequalities during his day, [the Church] is required to do the same today. In the past two decades, Louisiana's prison population has more than doubled, with one of every 86 residents serving time. 400,000 Louisianans were denied access to healthcare; however the Affordable Care Act Federal Exchange will decrease the uninsured population by 55%. Louisiana is a state that ranks next to last in education, first in incarcerating its youth, and is mired in a deep and growing morass of poverty. Isaiah 1:17 says "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."

Four Distinguished Panelists will include representatives from the Louisiana State Legislature, Budget Office, Criminal Court, and the Faith Community

Reverend Anthony Kelley, Founder of and a Consultant to the Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Commission of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc; Social Justice Director of the Greater Louisiana Baptist Convention; and Senior Pastor and Teacher of the Greater First Church of Baker, Louisiana, as a panelist representing the faith community, will challenge and encourage the faith community to engage in Advocacy and Sentencing Reform and Prisoner/Ex-prisoner Service Delivery Collaborative Efforts.

- **When?** Friday November 8, 2013
- **Time?** 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- **Where?** Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church
9700 Scenic Hwy, Baton Rouge, LA
- **Registration?** Please click to the link to register for the symposium:
[WIN/ PICO-LA Mass Incarceration Symposium Registration](#)

Event sponsored by WIN/PICO Louisiana, a state-wide chapter of the PICO National Network, an organization whose mission is to provide families and grassroots leaders with a voice in the decisions that shape their lives and communities. PICO National Network, the largest faith-based community effort in the United States with more than 1,000 member institutions representing one million families in 150 cities and 17 states and a growing international effort.

P.I.C.O. stands for "People Improving Communities through Organizing"