



Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition

103 East 196th Street
Bronx, NY 10468
Tel: 718-584-0515 Fax: 718-733-6922
www.northwestbronx.org

Dear Religious or Community Leader:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I write to invite your institution to join us in a fellowship of justice as an affiliated member of the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition. We are building a broad-based organization that can strengthen the institutions that anchor our community at the same time that we address important social justice issues. Together we will develop the leadership capacity of those who live, work, and worship in the Northwest Bronx.

We believe that the policies that affect the people of the Northwest Bronx must be rooted in social justice values. The Coalition exists in the space where policy change meets people change; we are big enough to sit at the negotiating table on many issues that affect the community and we are intimate enough so that leadership development occurs every day on an individual level. We transform people so that they can fulfill their highest purpose, and we transform policies so that we can live in a world free of material suffering. We want there to be no barriers to community members and policy-makers alike choosing lives dedicated to love, faith, and justice.

Affiliate membership comes with many benefits for an institution. Above all else, our goals are to strengthen your institution's capacity to realize your social justice values in the world, and strengthen your institution's capacity to identify new leaders, volunteers and members. We will provide direct staff support for institutional development as well as direct staff to help you win real changes on issues affecting your community. Of course, your institution will also be able to participate in all of our issue campaigns – education reform, affordable housing, immigrant's rights, youth organizing, and the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory.

Affiliate members have the right to nominate a candidate to serve on the NWBCCC Board of Directors and the NWBCCC Leadership Council, where they get a vote in the decisions that govern the organization (for example setting yearly priorities including financial planning, disbursement of staffing resources, political and national engagement). New and experienced leaders at your institution may attend, at no cost, the NWBCCC Community Leadership Academy's four week intensive training in leadership and community organizing.

In addition, NWBCCC is a member of the Gamaliel Foundation, a national network of powerful faith-based community organizations. As part of Gamaliel, leaders from your congregation would be able to attend a variety of national trainings for clergy, women, emerging leaders, and advanced leaders, geared toward developing your congregation and role in the community. NWBCCC is also an active member of the Center for Community Change and the National Training and Information Center, in which we join with other grassroots organizations on national campaigns and training opportunities.

The enclosed Affiliation Agreement offers more details about the rights and responsibilities of membership in the Coalition. If you are interested in becoming a member of NWBCCC, then please complete the Affiliation Agreement and nominate a candidate for the NWBCCC Board of Directors.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this offer. Thank you for your time, and I hope that you will join us in this interfaith fellowship of justice.

Sincerely,

Teresa Andersen
President