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For Immediate Release

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A panel consisting of young and old alike will speak out on the topic “Sex, What They Don’t Tell You. Why Wait for Marriage?”. The forum is part of the 6th annual celebration of Abstinence Awareness Week in Washington, DC from March 6 to March 12, 2011.

“It’s a matter of life and death,” said Richard Urban, executive director of ULTRA Teen Choice, a local non-profit that helps youth succeed in life by encouraging abstinence from sex before marriage and abstinence from drugs and alcohol. He is referring to an HIV/AIDS epidemic in the District, where, he reports, 2.5 percent of black females and 7.1 percent of black males are infected with the virus.

Tara White, author of “Don’t Curse Your Wedding Bed Before You Say I Do,” has been tapped as the speaker for the forum, to be held March 7 at Mt. Bethel Baptist Church, 75 Rhode Island Ave. NW. The newly ordained minister is on a mission to help singles understand the value of abstinence. “One of the reasons I wrote “Don’t Curse Your Wedding Bed Before You say I Do,” is to make singles people aware of the pitfalls that I went through,” she says. The forum is scheduled to start with a reception with refreshments at 5:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 6 p.m.

A DC Council At-Large Candidates forum, focusing on HIV prevention including sexual abstinence, youth and family health, including encouraging both the mother and father to rear children within a family, is set for March 10. The At-Large candidates for the special election which will fill the seat vacated by Kwame are being invited. The Candidates Forum is to be held at the 1330 7th St. NW Building Community Room starting at 6:30 p.m.

March 6 is Abstinence Awareness Sunday. Pastors are being asked to participate by emphasizing sexual abstinence until marriage in their sermons and Sunday School lessons. Materials are available at <http://www.ultrateenchoice.org>.