



# Greater Detroit District

Michigan Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration Honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *“Continuing the Dream”*

**Sunday, January 14, 2024 – 2:30 p.m. reception and 3:30 p.m. service**  
**In person *and* Livestreamed • Royal Oak First United Methodist Church**  
**320 W. Seventh St., Royal Oak, MI 48067 • 248.541.4100**  
**Rev. Jeff Nelson, Lead Pastor**

Dear Greater Detroit District Pastors, Lay Leaders, and Youth Leaders,

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.” He spoke of the power of education, the urgency of equality, the pillar of justice. To pay tribute to his legacy, and to continue to cultivate these dreams within our own lives, we invite you to gather at the 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration honoring Dr. King.

Through a service of song, prayer, litany, and reflection, we will use our voices to continue to speak about the things that matter. We will present awards and scholarships to individuals within our congregations who are pivotal examples of his legacy and who use their lives as a platform to speak. This celebration is always a beautiful way to recenter our hearts and intentions. It is uplifting, poignant, and powerful. We sincerely hope to see you there, either in person or via the livestream!

To participate:

- **Encourage your congregation to join us for this impacting service either in person or via livestream.**
- **Nominate a clergy or layperson who demonstrates Rev. King’s values to be named a “Drum Major for Justice.”**
  - Please submit a one-page nomination by October 13, 2023 to the MLK Committee by email: [MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org](mailto:MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org)
- **Reach out to high school seniors who are active members of your congregation and whose actions demonstrate a commitment to the values of Rev. King. Encourage them to apply electronically for a Scholarship for up to \$1,000.**
  - Please copy and distribute the enclosed Instruction and Application forms and remind them of the **October 13, 2023** PDF email submission deadline (11:59 p.m. EST). Submissions must be sent to: [MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org](mailto:MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org)
- **Donate to the scholarship fund by visiting this website or scanning this QR code:**
  - [https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9HV/campaign/C-1492T?access=tile\\_direct](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9HV/campaign/C-1492T?access=tile_direct)



Faithfully, your 30<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

Sherman Louis • Micki Phelps • Victor Raybaud • Tina Campbell  
Susanna Webber • Rev. Jeff Nelson, Host Pastor

## SCHOLARSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Greater Detroit District  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee

### **Purpose of the Scholarship Fund**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund exists to honor Rev. King's ministry and perpetuate his Christian values, particularly for the benefit of students and communities within the Greater Detroit District of the United Methodist Church. Scholarship recipients may be awarded up to \$1,000 at the discretion of the Celebration Committee.

### **Application Packet Requirements (3)**

1. Submission of the Application Packet electronically (PDF) by high school seniors.
2. Submission of two (2) letters of recommendation: a letter from your pastor **and** a letter from another adult such as a leader in your church, teacher, or counselor. These should attest to your membership and participation in the United Methodist Church as well as your adherence to Rev. King's values.
3. Submission of an essay (typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 500 words) using the theme: "**Continuing the Dream**" – Dr. King dreamed of a world where equality, education, service, and justice were the pillars on which decisions were made and where individuals' rooted their character. Reflect on why it is important in our world today that we continue to cultivate that dream in our society. Where do you see bridges that still need building? How are you actively making a conscious choice to ignite change and bring those pillars to light?

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Evidence that the applicant understands Rev. King's ministry and his Christian values.
- Examples of the applicant's activities that implement Rev. King's ministry, his dream, and/or stance on social justice.
- Writing that expresses how an applicant has been inspired by Rev. King and is likely to inspire others.

### **Submission & Deadline**

Your electronic PDF Application, Letters of Recommendation, and Essay must be emailed on or before October 13, 2023 (11:59 pm EST) to [MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org](mailto:MLK@greaterdetroitumc.org).

Or, complete the online application form and upload Letters of Recommendation, and Essay, here: <https://forms.gle/pSNrHJ4iqVCqCVbNA>

**SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION FORM**  
**Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund**  
**Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Greater Detroit District**

**Date:**

**Applicant's Name:**

**Mailing Address:**

**City/Zip:**

**Email:**

**High School:**

**Local Church:**

**Pastor's Name:**

**Pastor's Contact:**

**List 2 or 3 church activities in which you currently participate to help make Disciples of Jesus Christ.**

**List 2 or 3 honors you have received as a result of your engagement in the community.**

**What 2 or 3 accomplishments are you most proud of?**

- **Include your Essay as an attachment.**
- **Include 2 letters of recommendation: One from your pastor and the second from another adult (such as a Lay Leader in your church, teacher, mentor, or counselor)**