Beloved Community Grant Application

"Let us live together in peace and love in a Beloved Community." MLK Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote and spoke about the Beloved Community. We recognize that during the Civil Rights movement, his words reflected upon the African American community. However, our team wholeheartedly believes that if King spoke today, his words would reflect a broader, more diverse, Beloved Community. Our Greater Detroit District is the most diverse in the conference, a badge of honor that we have the privilege of claiming. Within that diversity, our church sizes, demographics, and locations know no bounds of creating impact and opening arms wide to create and embrace the Beloved Community. We are impressed by how much good is done in so many awesome ways. It is worth pausing to celebrate!

Two years ago, The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee launched a new grant whose purpose is shedding light on the incredible justice work that our churches are doing to nurture the Beloved Community. This grant acknowledges that sometimes it is the work we do *together* in our church communities that truly *expands* our outreach.

We are looking forward to awarding up to three churches The Beloved Community Grant this year at our annual celebration on Sunday, January 10th, 2027. If you would like to be considered, we need from your congregation:

- **Fill out the Application on our District Website and upload two reflections per congregation to the application:**
- {**To Be Written by a Lay Person}:** A Typed, double spaced one page reflection (roughly) that shares a bit more about your ministry. We would love to hear its origin, how it moves mountains within your community, how it seeks to embrace diversity and/or tear down stigmas of division, how it encourages your congregation to focus outward, and any challenges you continue to move through in order to make it happen. Tell us your story!
- {**To Be Written by a Pastor}:** A typed, double spaced one page reflection (roughly)that reflects upon how this ministry impacts your congregation and community. Please explain how the grant would help make an impact moving forward in the overall scope and reach of your ministry. How does this ministry nurture the Beloved Community?

Please note: Each congregation may only submit one application.

The Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2026 at 11:59 pm.** Churches will be notified by mid-November if they will receive a grant. A representative from the church will need to be present at the service in January in order to receive the money.

Questions? Please reach out to Stephanie Kenneh, District MLK Celebration & Special Initiatives Coordinator, at skenneh@greaterdetroitumc.org.