

## 2026 Scholarship Application

The Tate County MLK Scholarship Application must be submitted online at [www.midsouthchurches.com/scholarships](http://www.midsouthchurches.com/scholarships) no later than 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Scholarship awards will range from \$500 to \$1,000 and based on the generosity of our supporting churches and the Tate County community, we anticipate awarding the maximum amount this year.

Awards will be issued by check to each recipient upon satisfactory receipt of first-semester grades from a regionally accredited post-secondary institution.



Applications submitted by mail or in person will not be accepted.

For questions or concerns, please contact your church's scholarship committee representative or your pastor if no representative is designated. All decisions of the scholarship committee are final.



Are you or someone you know currently uninsured? If you answered "yes," you may have options to #GetCoveredMississippi through:

- ☐ A Special Enrollment Period (SEP)
- ☐ A federally qualified community health center
- ☐ Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- ☐ Medicare.



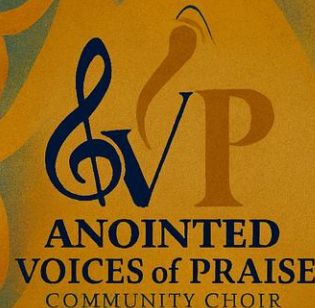
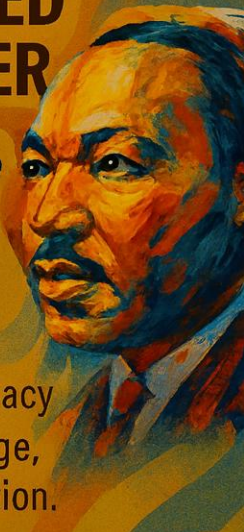
To see if you qualify, contact your Get Covered Mississippi Team: [www.getcoveredms.org](http://www.getcoveredms.org), call (662) 298-3584 or e-mail [info@getcoveredms.org](mailto:info@getcoveredms.org).

## ★ TATE COUNTY MLK CELEBRATION 2026

# MISSION POSSIBLE BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY TOGETHER

*Purple & gold praise  
with purpose—lifting  
every voice in unity  
and hope.*

Let's honor Dr. King's legacy  
through music, message,  
and community connection.



**Sunday, January 18, 2026, 2:30 p.m.**

**Mt. Calm Baptist Church  
Pastor Melvin Anderson**

### *Presenting Sponsors*





### Scholarship Eligibility and Church Participation Policy

To maintain fairness and honor the shared commitment of our participating churches, the MLK Committee has established the following guidelines for scholarship eligibility. These expectations help ensure that the generosity of our community is matched by consistent engagement from all congregations.

**1. Church Participation Requirement.** Participating churches are asked to support the MLK Scholarship Fund through **consistent engagement** in committee activities, program promotion, and annual giving. This shared commitment strengthens our collective impact on Tate County youth.

**2. Minimum Annual Church Contribution.** To qualify for their members to receive a scholarship award, each participating church is expected to contribute a **minimum of \$200** to the MLK Scholarship Fund. Churches contributing **less than the minimum** may still participate in the program; however, **their members will not be eligible for scholarship awards** for that program year.

**3. Consistency Matters.** Churches are encouraged to:

- Attend scheduled meetings or send a representative
- Promote the scholarship application within their congregation
- Support the MLK Day program through participation and presence

Consistent engagement ensures that the scholarship remains a true community effort.

**4. Scholarship Award Eligibility for Students.** Students must meet all published application requirements. In addition, scholarship eligibility is tied to the participation of their home church as outlined above.

**5. Annual Review.** The MLK Committee will review participation and contribution levels each year to ensure the policy remains fair, equitable, and aligned with the needs of our students and community.

### Lift Every Voice and Sing (The Negro National Anthem)

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the  
slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand  
True to our GOD, True to our native land



**Today's Speaker**  
**Dr. Keith Norman**  
*First Baptist Broad*

### **MLK Day History**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, observed each January, honors Dr. King's legacy and calls us to reflect and act on civil rights. The push for the holiday began with labor unions and lawmakers like Rep. John Conyers and Sen. Edward Brooke. Though their 1979 bill fell short, public support grew.

Opponents argued that the cost and tradition of honoring only public officials. At the time, only Washington and Columbus had national holidays. The King Center rallied support, and Stevie Wonder's 1980 song "Happy Birthday" helped energize the movement. A petition with six million signatures, the largest in U.S. history, urged Congress to act.

President Reagan initially opposed the holiday but signed the bill in 1983. It passed the Senate 78–22 and the House 338–90. The first observance was in 1986. The date follows the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, placing it on the third Monday of January rather than King's actual birthday.

### **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Litany**

**Leader:** In every era, God has chosen men and women to serve the needs of his people. Such a servant was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth we celebrate. We are deeply thankful for the life of this twentieth century prophet.

**People:** **May the wisdom and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rekindle our faith.**

**Leader:** May the deep love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us, that we too might work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.

**People:** **Dr. King taught that only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear.**

**Leader:** May his struggle for social transformation continue in this generation. May all people come to believe that with perseverance, "We Shall Overcome."

**People:** **"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." (Amos 5:24)**

**Leader:** May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial justice and its ungodly consequences.

**People:** **Dr. King pursued his dream of racial equality by appealing to the conscience of his enemies.**

**Leader:** May we continue to cultivate the nonviolent discipline of Dr. King, abandoning unrestrained acts of force.

**People:** **He taught us that a heart full of grace and love is just as important as an education.**

**People:** **He believed in self-respect and dignity, even though he knew that there would be difficult days ahead.**

**Leader:** May we have the courage of Dr. King as we continue to stand up for justice, reconciliation and truth, despite challenge and controversy.

**People:** **Dr. King said that war is never a victory, regardless of the outcome.**

**Leader:** May the peace of the risen Christ cause the fury of war to vanish from the face of the earth.

**All:** **He reassured us that we will get there one day. God of Glory, be with us on the journey.**



### **Tate County MLK Committee Members 2026**

Dr. Michael O. Minor, Chair, *The Hill-Hernando*  
Sister Henrene Pitts, Chair-Emeritus, *Edwards Chapel*  
Sister Helen McClellan, Secretary, *Gospel Temple*  
Sister Donna Elion, *Second Baptist*  
Sister Stacy Johnson - Guy, *Edwards Chapel*  
Sister Claudia Knight, *Mt. Calm*  
Sister Gala Milan, *Second Baptist*  
Sister Phyllis Richardson, *Macedonia*  
Sister Andrea Wright, *West Antioch #2*  
Sister Doris Lipford, Emeritus, *West Antioch #2*

*Special Note: We are soliciting a representative from each of our participating churches. We have a blessed time serving our community. You may contact any one of our committee members to volunteer.*

***See you next year:  
Sunday, January 17, 2027  
Gospel Temple COGIC  
Bishop Robert Barber***

### **Participating Churches**

Bates Chapel - Pastor Roderick Lewis  
Edwards Chapel – Pastor Julius Emanuel Giddens, IV  
Fredonia – Pastor Theo Tipton  
Gospel Temple - Bishop Robert Barber  
Hammond Hill - Pastor Isaac Slack  
Macedonia – Bishop Jerry Faggett  
Mt. Calm Church - Pastor Melvin Anderson  
New Independence – Pastor Roney Strong  
Paradise - Pastor Dwight Jones  
Second Baptist - Coldwater- Pastor Eric Givens  
The Hill – Hernando - Pastor Michael O. Minor  
West Antioch No. 2 - Pastor Jimmy P. Myers, II  
Zion Hill - Coldwater – Pastor Van McGhee

### **Musical Prelude: AVP Community Choir**

**Call to Worship** **Pastor Melvin Anderson**  
*Mt. Calm, Host*

**Praise Break** **AVP Community Choir**

**Invocation** **Pastor Julius Giddens, IV**  
*Edwards Chapel*

**Scripture** **Romans 12:18** **Evangelist Felicia Robinson**  
*Paradise*

**Negro National Anthem: “Lift Every Voice and Sing”**  
**Welcome/Observance History** **Sister Jermirria Blackburn**

**Dr. King Litany** **Pastor Dwight Jones**  
*Paradise*

**Praise Break** **AVP Community Choir**  
**The Sister Nancy Dandridge Award** **Sister Gala Milan**  
*Second Baptist-Coldwater*

**Praise Break** **MLK Day Youth Choir**



### **Giving Ministry**

**Appeal: Pastor J. P. Myers, II**  
**Cash App: \$MidSouthChurches**

**Mail:** Ms. Henrene Pitts; Post Office Box 229/Coldwater, MS 38618  
**Payee:** *Tate County MLK Committee*

### **Reflections from the Committee and Words of Thanks**

**Dr. Michael O. Minor**  
*The Hill-Hernando*

### **Introduction of Speaker**

**Pastor Eric Givens**  
*Second Baptist - Coldwater*

**Praise Break**  
**Message of Hope**

**AVP Community Choir**  
**Dr. Keith Norman**  
*First Baptist-Broad, Memphis*

### **Call to Christian Discipleship**

**Praise Break**  
**Giving Update**

**AVP Community Choir**  
**Sister Phyllis Richardson**  
*Macedonia*

### **Closing Prayer and Benediction**