

2025 Theme: Fulfilling “The Dream”

A CELEBRATION OF THE COMMUNITY’S COMMITMENT TO THE DREAM OF
REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., JANUARY 19, 2025

4:30 PM

The choir will perform three (3) selections before the start of the program.

PRELUDE *Community Choir*

Audrey Keaton-Mock and Terry Napper, Choir Directors

4:55 PM

*Music will end at and Platform guests take seats on the stage (include
proclamation readers)*

5:00 PM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Dr. Sean C. Garrick Vice Chancellor, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

5:05 PM

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Elder James L. Wright

Assistant Overseer, AOH Church of God

President-Elect, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Advocacy for Justice

Leader: Thanks be to You, O God, for Your love that embraces us all and
draws us together and fills our hearts with joy and hope!

**People: Even as we rejoice in the light, we remember how much the
brightness must be increased!**

Leader: So much justice yet to be established, so much pain yet to be
healed, so much peace yet to be realized, so much love yet to pour forth.

**People: Spirit of God: lend Your Holy Presence to our observance. Let
Your peace and Your power renew us all!**

5:10 PM

***INVOCATION**

Rabbi Alan Cook --- Sinai Temple, Champaign, IL

5:13 PM

***HYMN** *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (words on back of program)

5:18 PM

OFFICIAL GREETINGS

Robert J. Jones, Chancellor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

5:20 PM

Reading of the Countywide MLK Proclamation

MLK Countywide Committee Executive Members

5:24 PM

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:21-24

Reverend Dr. Jerry Wilson, Salem Baptist Church

Luke 4:16-20

Elder Dr. Mykah Jackson, Ph.D., Exceed Church Rantoul, IL

Director of College and Career Readiness for Champaign, Unit 4 Schools

5:26 PM

CALL TO COMMITMENT

Reverend Terrance L. Thomas, Bethel AME Church Champaign

(Selection by the Community Choir).

5:32 PM

Scholarship Offering

Selection: Community Choir

5:37 PM

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Vice Bishop Jimmie O. Holmes, Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church

Member, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice

5:40 PM

SPEAKER

Reverend Dr. Claude E. Shelby, Sr. Pastor Emeritus, Salem Baptist Church

President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice

6:10 PM

PASSING OF THE MANTLE

Reverend Dr. Claude E. Shelby, Sr.

President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice

6:18 PM

PRESENTATIONS

Elder James L. Wright

Assistant Overseer, AOH Church of God

President-Elect, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Advocacy for Justice

(Rev. Shelby and Chancellor Jones are the honorees)

6:28 PM

MLK SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Reverend Dr. Evelyn B. Underwood and Mr. Karl Gnadt

Scholarship Selection Committee Co-Chairs

6:38 PM

MLK Countywide Community Awards

Mikal Washington, City of Champaign

Carla Boyd, City of Urbana

- **James R. Burgess, Jr./Susan Freiburg Humanitarian Award** - Tracey Dace, Executive Director, Driven to Reach Excellence and Academic Achievement for Males (DREAAM)
- **Doris Hoskins Prestigious Community Service Award**- Donna Tanner-Harold, LCPC and Chair of the Black Mental Health and Wellness Conference, and the Champaign County Community Coalition's Race Relations Subcommittee, member
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outstanding Achievement Award** - Terry Townsend - Community Activist

6:45 PM

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Pastor Randy Boltinghouse, Windsor Road Christian Church

Member, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Advocacy for Justice

We thank You, Creator, that You are our God, and the God of our fathers and mothers, our sisters, and brothers. We are grateful that You have called us into communities of peace and justice. Let us go forth from this place with a renewed vigor to continue the fight for justice and equal opportunity. Bless all the people who made this celebration possible. Bless our scholarship recipients as they prepare themselves for larger service. Bless our places of worship, that in those sacred spots, Your Spirit might breathe new life into our dreams and the dreams of Your servant, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Amen.

6:48 PM

***HYMN** *We Shall Overcome* (words on back of program)

6:53 PM

***BENEDICTION**

Pastors Hannah and Nick Brzozowski, Founders, Anchor Church, Champaign, IL

* **The audience is invited to stand.**

Please Note: All of the times listed are approximations.

Donations for the 2025 MLK Celebration can be mailed to:

MLK Advocacy for Justice Committee

P.O. Box 1301

Champaign, IL 61824

(note there will be a QR Code added to the final program to receive online contributions.)