



## MLK & Wilmington 50 Year Commemoration

April 4, 2018  
Wilmington, NC

### Chairpersons:

Benjamin R. David, District Attorney  
Bertha B. Todd, Retired School Administrator  
<https://mlkandilm.wixsite.com/1968>

February 19, 2018

### Commission members:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Cape Fear Museum of History  
and Science

City of Wilmington

Coast 97.3 FM

Community Partnership

Fifth Judicial District

Friends of Williston, Inc.

Live Oak Bank

Ministerial Alliance

SENC MLK Celebration  
Committee

New Hanover County NAACP

National Black Leadership  
Caucus

New Hanover County

New Hanover County Schools

United Way of the Cape Fear  
Area

UNCW

USACE, Wilmington

WECT

Williston Alumni Association

Wilmington Downtown Rotary  
Club

YWCA Lower Cape Fear

Dear Faith Leader:

As fellow pastors we write to you today as part of a larger group of leaders who have come together under the banner of the **MLK & Wilmington: 50 Year Commemoration Commission** to humbly request your assistance.

As many of you know, Wilmington played a special role in the events that occurred 50 years ago: Dr. King was scheduled to be in Wilmington on April 4, 1968. He was to hold a voter registration drive at Williston Senior High School, a model for education at the time and the pride of the city's African-American community. Two days before his scheduled visit, Dr. King canceled his trip to Wilmington in order to offer his support to the Memphis sanitation workers. As we know, that decision proved deadly when Dr. King was gunned down in front of the Lorraine Motel at 6:01 pm CST.

As a community, we have come together to honor Dr. King's legacy. We plan to hold an event at Williston Middle School on April 4, 2018 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm that will feature the unveiling of a historical marker, speeches by special guests, music, and more. We believe that faith leaders play a vital role in building the kind of moral community that Dr. King fought to create.

In celebration of his 50-year legacy and Wilmington's special connection to this somber anniversary, we respectfully request your participation with the following: **first**, that you *share this history with your congregation and call for your members to recognize a minute-long moment of silence* from 7:00pm to 7:01pm EST on April 4, 2018. **Second**, at 7:01pm EST, we ask that you *ring the bells at your house of faith for another minute* in honor of Dr. King's legacy.

**Third**, we are not unmindful that Dr. King referred to 11 o'clock on a Sunday morning as "the most segregated hour in America." In the spirit of reconciliation and community-building, we *challenge you to reach out to another congregation or group outside your church to host an inclusive service sometime during this calendar year*. At the service, you might reflect on these words that are written on a marble monument at the foot of the balcony of the Lorraine Motel:

They said one to another  
Behold, here cometh the dreamer  
Let us slay him  
And we shall see what will become of his dreams.  
-Genesis 37:19-20

As the 50-year anniversary approaches, we rejoice in Dr. King's legacy and continue the unfinished work that remains at the heart of his ministry: promoting peace, social justice, and reconciliation. We hope to see you at Williston on the evening of April 4 and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Campbell".

Robert Campbell  
Pastor, New Beginnings Church

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Lewis".

Dan Lewis  
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

**"Out of the mountain of  
despair, a stone of hope."**

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.