

# NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF

## · *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day* ·

Monday, January 15, 2018

### A LEGACY OF HOPE

Dear Second Episcopal District Church Family:

Arelis and I are blessed to join with the Second Episcopal District Church Family of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the American people and others from all over the world in celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an American federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January, marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.

With humility and a God-ordained vision of equality for all people, this Civil-Rights servant was enabled to galvanize generations of Americans to fight for social and racial justice. Based on his Christian beliefs, he did not encourage taking up swords, guns, or bombs; but with his philosophy of peaceful civil disobedience, was able to lead campaigns to end racial segregation in public transportation and for racial equality in the United States.

Dr. King's life and works can be observed today in his legacy of hope to those who are left to continue the struggles for racial justice and social equality. Nonetheless, we, as God's people are experiencing the winds of turmoil and injustice blowing all across the nation and throughout the world. It is a fact that we have a President of the United States whose tongue needs to be bridled. Yes, we have many non-courageous representatives in Congress whom we elected in good faith to represent our interests for the well-being of all people, but are failing in their promises. Without a doubt, we as a people are listening and are visibly angry as traumatic changes are already underway in our entire society that will undermine and obstruct health care for the neediest, immigration status, and many other politically-motivated injustices.

I have good news for the people of God. Just as Dr. King's **LEGACY OF HOPE** led him to trust God in all things, we too must stay the course. We must remain Christ like, treat each other with respect, and work together to improve conditions in our communities both locally and abroad.

Remember our history as a church. The AME Church that grew out of protest because of religious, social and economic injustices. Be inspired to move forward with hope.

God, not man, is in control of this vast universe. His will for the world is that love, peace, and justice will prevail. Let us pray for our President, the Congress, national, state and local governmental officials, and each other as we continue this journey to wholeness. Let us stay alert and do our part. Our Creator, who is all-powerful, all-knowing and everywhere present, can take the axis of evil and use it to achieve His purpose.

On this National Holiday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday, let's take this opportunity as a day of volunteering in our communities and other citizen action groups to improve the quality of life for all people regardless of race, culture, or socio-economic status. Our God will bless our sacrifices and labors of love. And we will be blessed as we bless others!

In the Spirit to Empower the People,

James Levert Davis  
Servant Bishop