

# THE MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE OF SPRINGFIELD AND VICINITY

P.O. BOX 3501 + Springfield, Illinois 62708

*"Together we build love and good fellowship"*

December 11, 2009

## **MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OBSERVANCE**

*The Springfield community is invited to come Together for Commemorative March and Memorial Service at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 17.*

**SPRINGFIELD-** Dr. Clarice Ford, Director of the Diversity Center at UIS will be the keynote speaker for The Springfield Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March and Memorial Service on Sunday, January 17, 2010, at Union Baptist Church, 1405 East Monroe, Springfield, Illinois. The 18-minute march will begin with a brief meditation at 3:00 p.m. on Freedom Corner in front of the statue of Martin Luther King, Jr. at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Capitol Avenue, where the Illinois State Library is located. Church the Student Gospel Choir at UIS will sing at the statue and to lead the singing along the route. Banners and signs that inspire unity and cooperative achievement for common good are encouraged. The march will proceed to Union Baptist Church, 1405 East Monroe Street, where the Ministerial Alliance Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service will begin at 4:00 p.m. Those who gather at the church will sing congregationally. The UIS choir and the Southeast High School Gospel choir will perform.

Dr. Clarice Ford formerly was the pastor of the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Rome, Georgia and was Associate Dean of Students at Berry College for five years. She earned a Ph.D. from Fielding University, Santa Barbara, California. She is a member of the NAACP, Eastern Star Miriam Chapter #47, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Charter Member of the National Military Women Memorial, has earned the Pennsylvania Black Achiever Award, is member of the Mayor's Commission on Diversity and Human Relations.

Winners of the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest will deliver their essays during the Memorial Service. The essay contest is sponsored each year by the Alliance and is open to area elementary, middle school and high school students. This year's essayists were challenged to write on the topic of how they will encourage others to rise above their individual concerns to the broader concerns of all people, based on the quote from Dr. King, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Formed in the 1960's The Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity is an organization of pastors, ministers and laypeople from the Springfield which serves as a medium through which area congregations can work in harmony with one another. The Alliance sponsored the 2008 Year of Reconciliation which was designed to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the 1908 Race Riot. Recognizing the need to bring people of all races and backgrounds together to focus on the spiritual themes of reconciliation and healing the theme was eventually adopted by the City of Springfield. For more information on the Alliance visit their web-site at: [www.springfieldministerialalliance.org](http://www.springfieldministerialalliance.org)

*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Prov. 3:6)*