

Subject: [EXT]: From Dr. Hildreth—Honoring Dr. King by Living Our Mission
Date: Friday, January 16, 2026 at 4:30:31 PM Central Standard Time
From: Office of the President <news@mmc.edu>
To: Morrison, Theresa <theresa.morrison@mmc.edu>

****External Email****



Dear Meharry Community—

As we spend the weekend honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I am reminded that his life tells a story—a story of courage, of compassion and of unwavering dedication to justice. His legacy profoundly shaped my youth and served as a catalyst in forming the man I am today. From leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott, advocating for the Civil Rights Act, to championing the Poor People's Campaign, Dr. King demonstrated how steadfast commitment to all mankind can transform communities.

In fact, Dr. King's legacy and purpose is not separate from Meharry's story. It is woven into the fabric of our 150 years. Just as he championed equity and service, we see those same principles at work in every patient we heal, every community we touch and every discovery we pursue. His influence flows through our classrooms, our labs, our hospitals, and through the hearts of those who answer the call to serve others.

As we celebrate 150 years of service to mankind, we see the living embodiment of this year's MLK Day theme Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way. Our history tells us that when purpose meets perseverance, doors open. And now, in this season of renewal—marked by innovation, growth and the launch of our sesquicentennial year—we are stepping through those doors. We hear Dr.

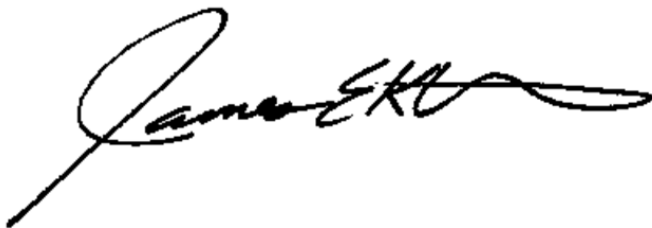
King's words from "The Birth of a New Age" as if they were spoken to us today:

"We must prepare ourselves in every field of human endeavor. We must extend our interest and we must accomplish a great deal to be prepared for these doors to open."

And we answer that call. We prepare leaders ready to face new challenges, to stand at the doorway of a new age, and to say, like Isaiah, "Here am I. Send me." These are not just words. They are a living commitment—a call to heal, to lead, to build the Beloved Community for generations to come.

So let us move forward together. Let us carry Dr. King's legacy in our hearts and in our actions. Let us write the next chapters of this story—chapters of service, chapters of innovation and of justice. Let us step boldly, prepared and determined, knowing that the work we do today shapes the world of tomorrow.

With gratitude and resolve,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E.K. Hildreth Sr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

James E.K. Hildreth Sr., Ph.D., M.D.
President and CEO

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