

**REVIVE**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Pastor Report**  
**December 1, 2023-February 29, 2024**

**A New Church: A New Path Forward**  
March 23, 2024

**Greetings:**

As you will see from the ministry, spiritual and financial reports, it has been a busy start to ministry at Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Baptist Church. As I reflect on the first three months of the ministry year, I want to highlight a few items with a continuous emphasis on our vision and mission. I am requesting that all Committees and ministries open with meeting with sharing of the Vision and Mission and Shared agreements.

Our first quarter has been focusing on advancing the work of the ministries and the work of the church. As we move into this new year we do so with **BIG** goals in mind. We will continue to stretch ourselves to reach these goals with the help of the Lord. The Priorities for 2024 continues to be guided by the **REVIVE** Vision and Mission as outlined in the Stewardship Strategic and Engagement Plan with our priorities as:

- Evangelism
- Youth Ministry
- Outreach
- Congregational Care
- Financial growth and stability

**Leadership and other Training**

Our Leadership Meeting was conducted with all of the Leaders on January 27, 2024, with a Speaker and focus on what opportunities are available for us in moving forward. The meeting was focused on the things in our backpacks that weigh us down and the genius in each of us. It reminded us that we have all been gifted for work in the kingdom of God. It was very inspiring and energized us to use the genius in us to continue to advance the kingdom of God.

**Child Abuse Awareness Training** – All Leaders are mandated to have Child Abuse Awareness Training and sign recommitment covenant. Committees, ministries, volunteers, and Leaders of boards and ministries are not allowed to work with youth until this mandate has been met. This activity is under the guidance of the Christian Education Board. Thank you for those who have completed these requirements.

Installation of Officers were held on Sunday, January 28, 2024



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### **Social Justice Outreach and Community Engagement**

- During this past quarter I made connection with the community to create partnership that enables us to advance the kingdom of God. I met with the Police Chief and several local churches in the area to see how we can create more opportunities in terms of dealing with the complex issues of our time and maximizing resources.
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day program powerfully and well attended. Guest Speaker Attorney Craig Smith message of United We Stand Divided We Fall was very powerful . He calls us as a community to unite in fighting the injustice of our times.
- Youth Law and Justice Forum in the planning stage. Looking for volunteers who wants to be part of the planning.

### **Worship Engagement Ministry**

Our worship service experience has been quite impactful. Our worship team with our communication have been working with our social media to reach more people and create a seamless spiritual and professional experience for those who worship through media and in-person.

Advent and Christmas – Advent was wonderful with families and ministries providing inspiration and spiritual service. The Youth Christmas program was amazing. So many young people participated, and it was impressive. Thanks to all the leaders and volunteers who work with our amazing young people.

New Year Service was conducted on-line virtual only on December 31, 2023.

We also had Ash Wednesday Service at 12 noon at the Church and approximately ten people participating. Our Ash Wednesday service was conducted in partnership with St. Matthew Church. It was a wonderful worship experience with our Deacons and congregation participating.

The Worship team did an outstanding job of putting together a wonderful worship experience for Black History Month. Claude Harris, 1<sup>st</sup> Black Chief of Seattle did an outstanding job as well as the RISE youth ministry was amazing.

Church Anniversary was celebrated as part of the morning worship services. A very inspiring and wonderful service celebrating and thank those who have given so much for the building and life of the church.



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### **Membership Committee**

Our membership from our Church Clerk report reflects New Members, Released/transferred out, Baptisms, Baby Christening, Funeral/Deaths. Our Baptism was wonderful and inspiring. There were approx. nine(9) young people who were baptized and accepted the Lord into their lives. The forming of the Compassionate Care Team under the Membership Committee with help to address even more of the needs of the fellowship.

### **Spiritual and Pastoral Care/visitations/calls**

This has been a very trying for many family's members who are experiencing illness and other matters. We are reminded that God is near to the broken-hearted(Psalm 34:18). We are mindful of caring for one another and reaching out to our fellowship as much as possible and keeping each other lifted in prayer. I am grateful for our Diaconate Ministry that have worked alone side of me in providing spiritual guidance and support to our membership.

I continue to preach, teach, and pray. During this period, I preached ten sermons, Taught 10 bible studies, and attended most of the prayer services. I continue to make calls and visitation serving those in Health care facilities and home bounds. Many in the congregation are in needs Pastoral counseling of which I have been blessed to be a part of providing guidance with the aid of the Holy Spirit in helping people in the journey of life.

I continue to ministry to the Bereaved families in our membership and constantly checking in on them.

### **Ministries Reports**

All independent reports can be found on the intranet. Please make sure that you take the time to log on to read them:

- RISE Impact Youth Ministry (Rising Inspiring Servants of Excellence)
  - The Youth Ministry continue to focus on providing necessary training and support to our young people. So many of the young people are growing and if you get a chance, please say hello to them. You can see the impact that the Youth ministry is having on their spiritual lives.
- Security and Safety Ministry
  - Safety and Security team is doing an excellent job. Ministry Leader Charlie Sims is planning for CPR training and a Safety drill in this upcoming quarter.



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- Outreach and Engagement Ministry
  - Back to School Outreach and Resources Day
- Margie Williams Helping Hand Center
  - The Helping Hand Center continue to service the community by providing food. Thanks to all those who support the ministry through volunteering and financial donations.
- Men's Ministry
  - Thanks to the men ministry as they continue to grow and for their leadership in all aspect of the Church. Encourage every man to get involved in the working of the men fellowship.
- Women with a Purpose Ministry
- eLevate Young Adult Ministry
  - Young Adult Ministry have been meeting and forming and developing this ministry
- Communication
  - Continue to meet with the ministry to update and upgrade our communication. Website up with more work to be done. Ministry actively improving the various aspects of our communication.
- Music Ministry
  - Flourishing. We have added an amazing musician and grateful for the long-term commitment of our faithful music ministry team.
- Usher Ministry
  - The usher ministry is growing and has reconnected with the united usher board. Thanks to the leadership and the commitment of those who are in service.
- New Member Ministry
  - Has been actively renewing their ministry and will continue to follow up with our new members.
- Membership - Congregational Care Ministry
  - Congregational Care Team has been activated and will be collaborating with the Pastor and Diaconate Team to provide more resources and support for our congregation.



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### **Stewardship**

I recommend that all members look at increasing their Tithes by 10% for the 2024 as well making a commitment to support the \$100,000 Stewardship Commitment. Thank you to those who have made those commitments . I am asking all of those who have not yet made your commitment to do so as soon as possible as we are entering into the 2nd quarter of the year.

### **Strategic Planning**

We have begun the deep work of discernment and processing a plan for building for the future to accommodate the ongoing need of ministry. We have held numerous discernment meetings and will continue this work to put together a plan to bring to the church soon. All members are asked to put their input on the poster on the wall in the fellowship hall. This information will be consolidated and will help us as we build a plan.

### **Next Quarters -Future and Procedures - Upcoming Ministry/Events/Procedures**

- Martin Luther King Lodge worshiping with -DTBD- April 2024
- Usher Annual Anniversary – April 28, 2024
- New Members and Family and Friend Day – May 19, 2024
- Ministry fair DTBD
- **New Procedures** - MLK Ministries project log will be generated weekly to help us stay connected to the project. All ministries will be asked to submit their project so we can effectively stay focus on advancing the work of the church and working in unity. I will be reviewing the reports and projects to determine level of support so that we are able to support the work that is being done.

### **Pastor's Recommendation**

- Consideration for Church Service start at 10:30AM

We are reminded of the power of unity and that working together we can accomplish much .(Psalm 33:1) Where there is unity, God commands a blessing in our lives since He created us to be interdependent. When people are united it is amazing to behold the things that can be accomplished through a collective effort. This is one of the most profound powers of body of Christ.

All great things that are accomplished are never done by an individual but through the efforts of a team. What is more beautiful at the end of the day is not so much the goal itself, but the relationships formed.



I am grateful to each of you as you have continued in your faith, prayer, study and the spirit of unity as we work together to advance the work of the church by listening to each other's and discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit in and through us. I appreciate the many professional skills you bring and utilize in the church. I am, astutely aware that the work is plentiful, but the laborers are few. (Matthew 9:35-38) but we cannot allow that to stop us because God has and will continue to provide. Thank you for all that you do!

Reverend Dr. Linda M. Smith,  
Pastor

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus...Philippians 3: 14*