# MINISTERS’ CONFERENCE OF HIGH POINT & VICINITY

# Presents

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**MLK Jr. ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **All applicants must be a 2025 Graduating High School Senior and meet two of the requirements below.**
   1. Resident of High Point
   2. Attend a High Point area school (public or private)
   3. Actively involved in a church that is a member of the Ministers’ Conference

1. **Scholarship submission must include:**
2. An official transcript (signature of a counselor with school seal) verifying a 2.75 GPA or higher.
3. A description of community service activities with the number of years involved and/or volunteer resume attached.
4. Letter of recommendation from the student’s school counselor.
5. Letter of recommendation from the student’s pastor.
6. A typewritten essay of 4-7 pages (12-point font, double spaced, and one-inch margins) APA style on one of the topics listed. **Be sure to document and cite all sources.**

**ESSAY - TOPIC 1**

**The theme of the 2025 Oratorical Breakfast is, "Are We Bending or Bowing Toward Justice?"**

**Taken from a famous quote by Dr. King, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” This use of the quotation, though, carries the risk of magical thinking. After all, if the arc of the moral universe will inevitably bend toward justice, then there is no reason for us to work toward that justice, as it’s preordained. If it is only a matter of cosmic influence, if there is no human role, then we are off the hook. This isn’t how King meant it, as evidenced by the work to which he dedicated his own life. His use of the quote is best understood by considering his source material.**

**“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice” is King’s clever paraphrasing of a portion of a sermon delivered in 1853 by the abolitionist minister Theodore Parker. Born in Lexington, Massachusetts, in 1810, Parker studied at Harvard Divinity School and eventually became an influential transcendentalist and minister in the Unitarian church. In that sermon, Parker said: “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe. The arc is a long one. My eye reaches but little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by experience of sight. I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends toward justice.”**

**President Obama loved the quote and had it woven into a rug in the Oval Office. It became a favorite of op-ed writers and well-meaning visitors, who used it to remind their audiences of the long road ahead for those committed to progressive politics. Often, Obama used it to temper the hope his presidency inspired, to remind those who had placed their faith in his message of change that it would not be one singular moment, such as the election of the first black president, that would usher in a new and just society.**

**Considering the theme and the background information you have been given, discuss and explain your thoughts on Dr. King’s quote.**

**ESSAY- TOPIC 2**

**Many have said that we are living in times that mirror those of Dr. King. Do you agree? As you reflect on current events in today’s society, what do you feel is the biggest issue facing North Carolina and / or Guilford County today? From a Dr. King perspective, how can we as a local or state community work toward alleviating or eliminating the issue?**

1. **Deadlines/Notification Dates**

Complete the Scholarship Application form, with all required documents, must be **RECEIVED** by **5pm** **December 5, 2024.** Submissions not received by the deadline or missing any portion of the packet requirements will not be considered. Students will be notified on **December 9, 2024,** by email if they are selected as a finalist. Finalist letters will include additional details on preparation workshops.

The scoring of all applicant packages for finalist consideration will be based on:

1. The overall presentation of the packet including how well the participants met criteria based on G.P.A and Service Learning/Volunteer resume.

2. The final essays will be judged on content, grammar, spelling, and APA format.

**There are three levels of awards:**

**\*First Place – up to $5,000**

**\*Second Place – up to $3,500**

**\*Third Place – up to $1,500**

**Questions concerning the application process are to be directed to Ms. Nichole Alston 336.254.7231,** [h.p.mlkscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:h.p.mlkscholarship@gmail.com)**.**

**Ministers’ Conference of High Point & Vicinity presents**

**The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Scholarship Application**

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_High School\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number and Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

College or University Student Plans to Attend

School\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Zip Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This application is complete when accompanied by (1) A typed essay minimum 4 pages, maximum 7 pages, 12 point font, double spaced with one inch margins on the assigned topic (2) Sealed High School Transcript, and (3) Description/List of community service and church activities and number of years involvement. (4) Letter of recommendation from your church Pastor. All submitted by the 5pm December 5, 2024 deadline.

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Scholarship money will be mailed to the institution after a copy of acceptance letter into a two-year or four year college or university is received. This is a one-time, non renewable scholarship. If you have questions, contact Ms. Nichole Alston [h.p.mlkscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:h.p.mlkscholarship@gmail.com), (336) 254-7231.