

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Returns to Memphis, Tennessee with 51st Annual National Convention

Atlanta, Georgia. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference will host its 51st Annual National Convention in historic Memphis, Tennessee. The convention is scheduled to be held Saturday, August 1st through Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 at the GE Patterson Family Life Center, 369 GE Patterson Avenue, 38126 Memphis, TN.

This year's theme, "The Legacy, The Man, The City, The Vision", epitomes the focus of the upcoming 2009 convention. Hence this year's four-day convention will honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the significance of Memphis, TN in his profound life, his death in 1968 at The Lorraine Hotel and his eternal legacy. Moreover, the convention's outlined events will focus on completing the unfinished works of Dr. King, the future of the SCLC and it's "Beloved Community". In that spirit, the SCLC will celebrate its core source of support...the grass-root community. The convention events are being held throughout the city of Memphis, in the communities and with those to whom it serves.

"This convention will continue to address issues that are of utmost importance to everyday Americans, forcing the return of a civil rights agenda to the nation's consciousness, and completing the unfinished vision of our founder, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," stated Dr. Byron Clay, Interim President and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Pressing towards the future, the SCLC will also host numerous sessions to promote political, economical and health awareness. During the convention, the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation (SCLF), as part of the *Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative (AAALI)* – a partnership between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will conduct a health care session and workshops to disseminate the facts about HIV/AIDS and to encourage early diagnosis and routine testing for HIV.

The revitalization of Dr. King's, Poor People's Campaign is also paramount to the SCLC. Dr. Byron Clay states the, "SCLC has recommitted itself to finishing the movement started by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to pull back the veil of silence that prevents Americans from facing the reality that millions of Americans live in deplorable conditions of poverty. This will be an opportunity to shine a light on the conditions of poverty...we should be clear that poverty is a national epidemic that must be addressed."

Some of the 2009 SCLC National Convention's invited guests for the SCLC's Presidential Address, Convention Luncheon, Labor Breakfast, Awards Gala as follows: President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Former President Bill Clinton, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham-Clinton, United States Attorney General Eric Holder, Mr. Martin Luther King, III, President of Rainbow Push Coalition, Rev. Jesse Jackson, President to the National Baptist Convention, Dr. William Shaw, the Honorable Maxine Waters, the Honorable John Lewis, the Honorable Marc Morial, Congressman Steve Cohen, Representative Lois DeBerry, Rev. Al Sharpton, Mr. Dick Gregory, Rev. C.T. Vivian and Opera Singer, Bridget Bazille.

SCLC National Headquarters

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Martin Luther King, Jr., Founding President

Dr. Byron Clay, Interim President & CEO • Dr. Raleigh Trammell, Chairman of the Board of Directors

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was founded on Feb. 14, 1957 by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Rev. C.K. Steele, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery and other clergy "to redeem the soul of America," is a nonprofit and interfaith, social advocacy organization committed to nonviolence, to achieve social, economic and political justice. The organization currently has more than 100 chapters and affiliates nationally and internationally. The organization reaches millions through its chapters, affiliates website, and national SCLC Magazine.



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