

*Martin Luther King Jr. Forum*

# **I Have A Dream 2022: The Fierce Urgency of Now**

Jan. 13, 2022, 11:30 a.m.  
Pioneer Memorial Church

**Presenter: Dashuna Robinson**



## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 1929–1968

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, or MLK Day, commemorates the birthday, life, teachings and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was born on Jan. 15, 1929. He preached, marched, advocated, lived and eventually died in the struggle to create a more humane, equitable and just society. His nonviolent philosophy continues to impact the world. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law on Nov. 3, 1983, and it is now observed in all 50 states. MLK Day is a time of reflection and action.

This year's theme, *I Have A Dream: The Fierce Urgency of Now*, comes from the historic "I Have a Dream" speech delivered in Washington, D.C. on Aug. 28, 1963. In it Martin Luther King Jr. described the urgency of the moment "to make justice a reality for all of God's children." In 2022, the fierce urgency remains as the nation confronts justice reforms in economics, healthcare, the environment and in the social and political landscapes. His appeal for united and equitable action continues to resonate almost six decades later. As we enter a new year, now is the time to make his dream a reality.

**For more local and national MLK observances:**



[lakemichigancollege.edu/  
community/dei](https://lakemichigancollege.edu/community/dei)



[thekingcenter.org](https://thekingcenter.org)

**Welcome**

**Danielle Pilgrim**  
*Associate Chaplain*

**Prayer**

**Kevin Burton**  
*Director, Center for Adventist Research*

**Opening Remarks**

**Christon Arthur**  
*Provost*

**Introduction of the Speaker**

**Paulette Johnson**  
*Dean of Libraries*

**Musical Selection**

**Nathaniel Powell &  
Philip Wekesa**

**Presentation**

**Dashuna Robinson**  
*President, Benton Harbor School Board  
and Project Coordinator, MDHHS*

**Appreciation**

**Morgan Williams**

**Benediction**

**Chaka Samuel**

## Speaker Biography

**Dashuna Robinson** is a proud 2003 graduate of Benton Harbor High School. She attended Western Michigan University for her undergraduate degree, where she became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English literature, with a minor in communication. She is finalizing her MSW at Western Michigan University, with a Policy, Planning and Administration concentration, where she previously served on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the School of Social Work.

Robinson has serviced families in need for over 14 years. She is currently employed with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for Berrien County where she serves in multiple capacities. She is an Assistance Payments supervisor, co-Champion for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and was recently assigned as the MDHHS project coordinator for water response efforts in Benton Harbor, Michigan. She has worked in several social work-related positions advocating for families in need, victims of domestic and sexual violence and youth in crisis. She served as the program area supervisor of Residential Services for the YWCA of Kalamazoo, where she directly supervised the domestic and sexual assault shelter, volunteers and interns; victim advocate counselor for the YWCA; assistant supervisor of the Berrien County Juvenile Center; MSW intern for Let's Talk About It Girls Home; and as a shelter care worker for the Ark Shelter for Youth in Crisis.

Through her work within the field of social work, Robinson has grown to understand the significance of political governance and policy, prompting a journey into political leadership. In 2020, she increased her political involvement through donations, social media campaigning and local leadership. She is the current president, and former secretary, of the Board of Education for Benton Harbor Area Schools. She is also a financial member of the National Association of Social Workers, Democratic National Committee, Michigan Democratic Party, a Trustee for Michigan's Sixth Congressional District, and a member of the Berrien County Democratic Party. She also serves on the Social Action Committee for the Benton Harbor/St. Joseph Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and is a member of the Berrien Community Foundation's Women's Giving Circle, a group of dynamic female leaders in Berrien County. She was most recently recognized for her service efforts by Wayne State University in March of 2020 as a Social Worker Changing Futures, a 2021 40 Under 40 Class Member by Moody on the Market which highlights dynamic leaders in Southwest Michigan, and by the Herald Palladium for her local leadership on the Benton Harbor Area School Board.

Robinson is married and raises her two children with her husband in her hometown of Benton Harbor, Michigan. She is a student of life and a leader of people. Dashuna is committed to the uplift of disenfranchised populations and leads in spaces that seek to accomplish such; economically, educationally and politically. She is excited for future opportunities to serve.