

THE REVEREND MARKEL HUTCHINS

Atlanta, Georgia

www.revmarkel.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 7:30am ET

CONTACT: Judy Jones, media@revmarkel.com – 404.585.0MRH (0674) office

NEW LEADERSHIP IN TODAY'S NEW NORMAL

Convener: *“It’s time for a new generation of civil and human rights leaders nationally”*

ATLANTA, GA -- On the heels of recent protests around the country surrounding the deaths Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and other un-armed African American men at the hands of police, a new generation of clergymen in Atlanta are seeking to answer questions about "where are new civil rights leaders?" in the non-violent, peaceful and inclusive tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the nation celebrates black history, another group of emerging southern clergy want to make history in the vein of the civil rights icons recently portrayed in the widely acclaimed movie "Selma."

Convened by Reverend Markel Hutchins, a 37 year-old civil and human rights activist, a symbolic group of 12 prominent Atlanta clergymen, all under 40 years of age, will host a historic and unprecedented intergenerational gathering of ministers on February 15, 2015, 58 years to the day that Dr. King and other young preachers met in 1957 and founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

On February 15, 1957, young clergymen including Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, Fred Shuttlesworth, C.K. Steele and numerous other young pastors met to strategize around the pressing civil rights issues of their time. The goal was to form a faith-based framework to coordinate and support nonviolent direct action as a method of cultivating a mass movement to "Redeem the Soul of America" following the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. That historic day, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) was born. That generation of courageous leaders changed our nation and inspired the world. Now, most of those leaders have faded from the scene.

According to Rev. Hutchins, "That era was their time to serve - this is ours." He continued, "It is time for the next generation of servant leaders to ‘step-up’ in the love and justice traditions of the civil rights heroes portrayed in the movie "Selma," as well as, the countless less-known women and men who served our nation so bravely."

Rev. Barrett Johnson, a 33 year old pastor from Scottdale, GA offered, "Today there is no contemporary to SCLC for this generation of concerned, conscientious and committed people of faith to coalesce around, connect to, and lead and we must change that."

At 6:00pm on Sunday, February 15, 2015, exactly 58 years after the founding of SCLC, younger ministers in Atlanta, birthplace of Dr. King and cradle of the American Civil Rights Movement, will have an opportunity to sit with Civil Rights Movement era clergymen and other icons who supported Dr. King, to begin the process of propelling "new civil and human rights leaders."

WHAT:

Historic Summit of Iconic *and* Emerging Civil Rights Leaders

WHEN:

Sunday, February 15, 2015 – 6:00pm ET

WHERE:

Mount Olive Baptist Church, 2174 M.L. King, Jr. Drive, SW, Atlanta, GA 30310

WHY:

To establish a new, modern and relevant national organization to address burgeoning civil and human rights challenges facing this generation.

WHO:

Co-Hosts (12 Prominent Atlanta Area Clergymen under 40 years old)

Convener: Rev. Markel Hutchins, *Civil & Human Rights Activist, Atlanta, GA, 37 years old*

Rev. Addison Canidy, Youth Pastor, Changing a Generation Ministries, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Harvey Charles Canty, Senior Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, GA

Rev. Charles L. Fisher, III, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA

Rev. William Flippin, Senior Pastor, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Gerald Griggs, Esq., Founder, Gerald A. Griggs Law Firm, LLC

Rev. Antonio Grissom, Senior Pastor, Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Dr. David Jackson, Senior Pastor, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Barrett Johnson, Senior Pastor, New Travelers Rest Baptist Church, Scottdale, GA

Rev. Dr. De'Andre Pickett, Founder, UNIT:Ed, East Point, GA

Rev. Dr. Darryl Roberts, Esq., Senior Pastor, Mt. Welcome Missionary Baptist Church, Decatur, GA

Rev. Victor Demond Tate, Senior Pastor, First Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Rev. Eric George Vickers, Senior Pastor, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

-###-