

# CONNECT WITH US!

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Yyokkia Lawson, President

*Audio assistive devices are available for hearing needs. Speak to an usher to receive one.*

*Gender-inclusive, handicap accessible, family restroom available on the first floor: take the elevator (left of the sanctuary from the main entrance) down one floor.*

*Masks are always welcome, but optional. Thank you for respecting the choices of individuals monitoring their own health circumstances and comfort levels.*



## About The Athens Area Human Relations Council (AAHRC)

Founded in 1976 by Rev. David H. Nunnally, Sr., the AAHRC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community organization that is dedicated to furthering the ideals of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It offers opportunities that allow the community to come together without regard for race, age, profession, religion, etc. The main goals of the organization are to:

- Re-examine, initiate, and support actions designed to improve and bring harmony to multicultural relations in the Athens community and abroad.
- Provide a forum for concerned citizens to discuss, work together and render volunteer service to build better human relations in the community.
- Continually advocate and maintain the high idealism of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which provides a framework for social justice to all humanity.
- Advocate actions to reduce violence in our homes, streets, and schools.
- Build relationships with individuals, groups, and organizations interested in promoting positive multicultural relations.

# ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Commemorating the Life & Legacy of  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## **Oconee Street United Methodist Church (OSUMC)**

595 Oconee Street, Athens, GA  
*Rev. Miki Chastain, Senior Pastor*

**Keynote Speaker: Chaplain Shane Sims**

**Theme: Mission Possible II:  
"Building Community, Uniting a Nation, the Nonviolent Way"**

*Presented by the Athens Area Human Relations Council (AAHRC)  
In Partnership with Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens (ICPGA)*

**January 18, 2026, 4:00 PM**

## Order of Service

Chaplain Cole Knapper, Presiding

### PRAISE CALL

2026 MLK Ecumenical Praise Team  
*Under the direction of Dr. Anthony Rucker*

### CALL TO UNITE

Chaplain Cole

### MUSICAL SELECTION

2026 MLK Ecumenical Praise Team  
*"I Opened My Mouth to the Lord"*

### CHURCH WELCOME

Rev. Miki Chastain

*Senior Pastor, Oconee Street United Methodist Church*

### SCRIPTURE

Brother Yassin Abbas

*Al-Huda Islamic Center, Athens, GA*

### PRAYER

Pastor J. Ricardo Smith

*Senior Pastor, Browns Chapel Baptist Church, Bishop, GA*

### "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing!" Hymn #519

Praise Team & Congregation

*Led By Ms. Dierdra Stroud*

### REFLECTIONS

Sohayl Moshtael

*Bahá'í Faith*

### ----- FINANCIAL APPEAL -----

### PRAYER FOR THE NATION

Pastor Courtney E.D. Bryan

*Senior Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Watkinsville, GA*

### MUSICAL SELECTION

2026 MLK Ecumenical Praise Team

*"Trust in God"*

### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Tlayra Sims

*Executive Director, Mother-to-Mother*

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Chaplain Shane Sims

*Executive Director, People Living in Recovery*

### ICPGA Remarks

Minister Iris Chandler

*Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens (ICPGA)*

### AAHRC REMARKS

Yyokkia Lawson

*President, Athens Area Human Relations Council (AAHRC)*

### BENEDICTION

Rev. Miki Chastain

## Chaplain Shane Sims - Bio

### *People Living in Recovery*

**Chaplain Shane Sims** is the Executive Director of ***People Living in Recovery***, a local nonprofit that assists families and individuals facing substance use, mental health and homelessness challenges.

**Chaplain Sims** is a nationally recognized recovery leader, trauma-informed practitioner, and community advocate whose work reflects the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for a ***Beloved Community*** grounded in justice, dignity, and redemptive love.

With more than a decade of leadership in *addiction recovery, reentry support, and nonprofit development*, Sims integrates lived experience, professional expertise, and faith-rooted service to advance healing and equity in justice-involved communities.

Chaplain Sims serves as Executive Director of ***People Living in Recovery in Athens***, where he leads innovative peer-driven initiatives supporting individuals and families impacted by substance use, incarceration, and trauma.

His work has earned wide recognition and several commendations and awards, including the ***Community Service Award*** from the ***Athens Area Human Relations Council***, nominations for the ***Flame of Hope Award*** from ***Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities***, and ***Nonprofit of the Year*** honors from the ***Athens Area Community Foundation***. His ***Principles Over Passions*** mentorship model has also been featured in the ***Atlanta Journal-Constitution*** for its impact on recovery and reentry outcomes.

A certified Chaplain and sought-after speaker, Chaplain Shane approaches leadership as ***both a sacred responsibility and a moral call to action***.

As **Keynote Speaker** for the **2026 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ecumenical Service**, he invites the community to honor Dr. King's legacy not only in remembrance, but through courageous faith, collective healing, and transformative justice.