"Embracing the New"

Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council



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Heritage, History, and a Tradition of Service

Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council, Inc. was established in 1957 during the turbulence of the Civil Rights Movement. Founding President, Dr. Aaron Johnson, along with other ministers and pastors, formed the Council to provide help and stability during this difficult stage in our nation's history. The Council was not only formed to be a voice within the community but was also formed to promote unity and togetherness for the overall well-being for all the citizens of Cumberland County. FCCMC is a non-profit and in its 66 years, FCCMC remains one of the oldest Ministerial Councils or Alliances in Fayetteville and North Carolina, as well. The guiding principle of FCCMC is We Are Better Together, fostering the belief that when we come together and work together in unity, we build a better, stronger community that serves the well-being of all its citizens.

- FCCMC strives to promote clergy collaboration, fellowship, and unity towards achieving Dr. King's ideal of the Beloved Community.
- FCCMC, with a history of 66 years, remains one of the oldest Ministerial Councils or Alliances in Fayetteville and in North Carolina
- FCCMC is a 5013-C, Non-Profit organization designed to serve the community and its people.

Words From the President



Fayetteville Cumberland Human Relations Faith Leader of the Year 2023

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council. We have continued to remain committed to our history of serving and giving back to our community. We have been able to do this because of community friends such as you who have partnered over the years. As my tenure as president comes to an end, I wish to express my appreciation for all your help and support. When I became president, it seemed like a season of disruptions within a chaotic world. In 2021 and 2022 we dealt with COVID, in 2023 we found the earth opening back up trying to figure out how to now navigate with a new normal. We were dealing with and continue to deal with post pandemic traumas and mental health concerns, especially our children who dealt with virtual learning for almost two years. Therefore, our theme this year is Embracing the New lifted from the book of Isaiah 43:18-20. As we realize that we can't change the former things, but we can continue to rise to the occasion and be that beacon of light as we embrace the new in offering hope by serving our community.

FCCMC strives to keep its finger on the pulse of our community, and in 2023 we partnered with Cumberland County Schools to help support both our students and teachers alleviating some of the stress and challenges they encounter. This year we heard the heart of our Superintendent and along with other faith leaders, we started the school year off with prayer, gathering on the baseball field of FTCC. We have continued our partnership with Touching Lives Ministry, to provide food and clothing for the homeless, We continued to provide monthly training, updates, and clergy support to ministers and pastors. We continued

our annual "The Dream Must Become a Reality Walk" commemorating the 60th anniversary of the historic march in Washington, D.C. Now more than ever, we need our community to become that "beloved community," that Dr. Marting Luther King Jr. so passionately spoke of. Finally, we are thankful that irrespective of a pandemic and a post pandemic economy that we were still able to award. \$10,000 in scholarships to local graduating high school seniors and give a \$500.00 award to one of our local public schools JROTC who has limited resources. FCCMC will continue to be that light of hope as Dr. Martin Luther King proclaimed, Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. In my closing remarks for the last time as president, I again, sincerely thank you, pray God's blessings upon you and always remember, "We Are Better Together!"

Our Commitment to Community

FCCMC has a proud history and tradition of serving and giving back to the community. All donations and proceeds received from the community are quickly returned to the community in providing assistance and services to the community. Listed below are just a few community activities and acts of benevolence provided by FCCMC:

Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast and Worship Service

These two events celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions in the Civil Rights Movement. The Prayer Breakfast is one of the largest events held in the community with annual attendance ranging from 1200-1500. The Annual Breakfast has evolved into an **Annual Brunch**.

Annual Day of Service

This is a day of service and outreach within the community which immediately follows the Prayer Breakfast. It is promoted as *A Day on, Not a Day off,* with the hope that the volunteer service selected extends beyond one day.

Annual Good Friday Worship Service

Annual Scholarship and Community Awards Celebration
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minimum of \$10,000 is awarded annually to local high school
graduates, with each receiving \$1,000. For several years, more
than 10 scholarships have been awarded annually through the
benevolence of Bill McMillan and Restore Warehouse who

give \$2000 in memory of two former longterm employees. A Community Service Award is given annually to assist individuals and grassroots, nonprofits who diligently render services to our community. Also, annually, a Minister's Scholarship is awarded to an FCCMC member to assist in seminary pursuits. Since 2010, more than \$160,000 has been returned to support our community.

Education Awareness Sunday

FCCMC secured City and County Proclamations naming the 2nd Sunday in February as a day of uniting in prayer and support of our schools, Pre-K-College. Now more than ever, schools need our support.

Emergency Contingency

In times of community emergencies or community needs, FCCMC has always been counted on to help, such as assisting during hurricanes, and other natural disasters, supporting Hunger and Homeless Stand Down, and of course, during the COVID-19. Also, FCCMC continues to encourage pastors, ministers, and the faith community to support our local schools at all levels.



