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21st Annual MLK Gospel Festival

December 9, 2010

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — The twenty-first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Gospel Festival will be held on Monday, Jan. 17 at Illinois Wesleyan University. Free and open to the public, the event will run from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. in Westbrook Auditorium of Presser Hall (1210 Park St., Bloomington).

The celebration in honor of the birth of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, Jr., will include performances by the United Community Gospel Singers Mass Choir, Gayles Memorial Mass Choir (Aurora, Ill.), the Fantastic Jones Family (Springfield, Ill.), the Mt. Pisgah Adult Choir, Praise Dancers and Sunbeam Choir, Union Baptist Church Adult Choir, Integrity Singers (Peoria, Ill.), Illinois Wesleyan Chapel Gospel Choir, Illinois State Interdenominational Youth Choir.

Also performing will be the Loving Missionary Baptist Choir, JAM Production Choir, Boys and Girls Club Choir, Crosswinds Prairie Dance Team, The Hour of Deliverance Youth Choir, and the City of Refuge Adult Choir.

The Gospel Festival was founded in 1991 by Corine Sims, as a joint effort with Illinois Wesleyan and the United Community Gospel Singers of Bloomington and Normal. King spoke twice at the University, once in 1961 before his famous "March on Washington" speech, and again in 1966, after he became the youngest man to win a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts of non-violence protest in the Civil Rights Movement.

For additional information about the festival, contact Carl Teichman, director of government and community relations at (309) 556-3429 or the Rev. James Sims at (309) 828-4602.

Contact: Sherry Wallace, 309, 556-3181