



MarionAllianceIA@gmail.com

January 8, 2021

Dear Faith Leaders and your respective congregations:

We, the Marion Alliance for Racial Equity (MARE), would like to wish you peace and love and pray this letter finds you well and full of joy. We are sending out this letter to faith leaders and community leaders across Marion in efforts to answer the clarion call from our community. Our organization is built on the principles of educating, engaging, empowering and encouraging the people of Marion as we diligently fight for social justice and racial equity.

We recognize and understand that we cannot fight for this alone, and we are asking for your help in collaborating on our collective efforts.

Our focus these next few months is to demonstrate a united front amongst all faith and community leaders, with MARE as a partner. **We want to accomplish this by organizing a Martin Luther King Jr. Service for Marion, Iowa, this month.**

Our efforts have already led to preparations for this service; **we are asking for the support of Marion leaders to help make an even greater impact by sharing and promoting information on your platforms.** We will be in touch with more details by email.

In February, we want to use every effort we can from Marion to engage our community, empower each citizen and encourage all cultures, faith and spiritual leaders. Since February is Black History Month, we would like to use this time to uplift the African American community and show solidarity, as well as strength in our coming together.

It is our hope and prayer that we as a community can break down barriers and build bridges. In this hope is the development of continued engaging, welcoming, and inclusive community-building opportunities across congregations and faith leaders. We look forward to gathering ideas, serving with you and also promote your ideas in making this hope a reality.

In peace and love,

Joshua S. Milam

on behalf of the Marion Alliance for Racial Equity Steering Committee