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## **Rev. Starsky Wilson to Speak at MLK Celebration**

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### REV. STARSKY WILSON TO SPEAK AT MLK CELEBRATION

**January 13, 2016**

Reverend Starsky Wilson, St. Louis-based pastor, philanthropist, and co-chair of the Ferguson Commission, will deliver the keynote speech for Lindenwood University's annual Martin Luther King Day ceremony at 2 p.m. on Jan. 18 in the Lindenwood Theatre at the J. Scheidegger Center for the Arts. The event is hosted by the Black Student Union.

Wilson's speech, titled "Becoming the Beloved Community," will be preceded by a "Unity March" from Harmon Hall to the Scheidegger Center, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The Martin Luther King Day celebration will also feature a welcome from Lindenwood President Dr. Michael Shonrock, poetry, musical performances, dance, and a closing reception.

Wilson is president and CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based grant-making organization devoted to making child well-being a civic priority in the St. Louis region. He is also the pastor of Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), and in 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed him co-chair of the Ferguson Commission.

Through Saint John's, Wilson has led congregational activism on many issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, and raising the minimum wage, while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving.

Wilson serves on national boards for Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, the United Church of Christ Cornerstone Fund, Chicago Theological Seminary, the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy and regional boards for the United Way, Gateway YMCA, FOCUS-St. Louis, Teach for America-St. Louis and the Mayor's Commission on Children, Youth and Families, where he co-chaired the Regional Youth Violence Prevention Task Force.



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