



Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel
Morehouse College
Atlanta, GA

The mission of Morehouse College is to develop men with disciplined minds who will lead lives of leadership and service. A private historically Black liberal arts college for men, Morehouse realizes this mission by emphasizing the intellectual and character development of its students. In addition, the College assumes special responsibility for teaching the history and culture of Black people.

THE SEARCH

Morehouse College invites applications and nominations for an inspirational, innovative, and inclusive spiritual leader and administrator to serve as the next Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel (“King Chapel”).

A cornerstone of the Morehouse community, King Chapel is both a sacred space and a transformative force, shaping the moral, spiritual, and intellectual development of Morehouse men for generations. It stands as the world’s most prominent religious memorial to Morehouse alumnus Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ’48 serving as a gathering place for spiritual leaders, scholars, and thought partners advancing the work of peace, justice, and human dignity. Following in the tradition of Dr. King, The Rev. Howard Washington Thurman ’23, Rev. Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, and other visionaries, the Chapel embodies the power of the Gospel to illuminate Christ’s teachings in the contemporary world.

Through its transformative programs, the Chapel promotes the values of spiritual ethics, service, and harmony in everyday life. Inspired by the vision of a Beloved Global Community as the ethical expression of God’s presence, it nurtures those who seek to realize King’s dream as nonviolent architects of a just and sustainable world. This search comes at a pivotal moment, as the founding dean, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Edward Carter Sr., prepares to retire at the conclusion of the 2025–2026 academic year after 46 years of extraordinary leadership, scholarship, stewardship, and service.

The next Dean will be called to honor Morehouse’s historic legacy while boldly shaping its future. Founded in 1867, Morehouse is a private, residential, liberal arts institution—unique in its mission and unparalleled in its impact. The College seeks a dean who can advance an ambitious vision for the Chapel, cultivate the resources to sustain that vision, and steward the College’s spiritual and religious life. This leader will extend Morehouse’s proud tradition of producing academically exceptional, morally anchored, and service-driven leaders prepared to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world.

Isaacson, Miller has been retained to assist in this recruitment. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE: HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

For nearly 160 years, Morehouse College has been a beacon of academic excellence and leadership development. Founded with the mission to educate and empower Black men, Morehouse has a proud legacy of producing leaders who shape the world. The College has prioritized intellectual and character development with a goal of developing men with disciplined minds to lead lives of leadership and service.

Before it became Morehouse College, it was known as the Augusta Institute, founded in Augusta, Georgia, in 1867, two years after the Civil War concluded. It began in the basement of Springfield Baptist Church in Augusta, with the primary purpose of preparing Black men for ministry and teaching. In 1879, the Augusta Institute relocated to Atlanta, becoming Atlanta Baptist Seminary, then Atlanta Baptist College, before ultimately being named Morehouse College, in honor of Henry Lyman Morehouse, corresponding secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission and a prominent supporter of education for African Americans.

Under the leadership of Dr. John Hope, who became the College's first African American president in 1906, the college shifted its focus toward a more rigorous academic curriculum. Dr. Hope's transformative vision established Morehouse as a leading institution for Black, male education, enabling its graduates to achieve success across various fields. The college attributes its early growth in enrollment and academic reputation to Dr. Hope's leadership.

The College has an active alumni base and a distinguished reputation among its many stakeholders in the greater Atlanta metropolitan area and national constituencies. Today, its success in the education of Black men is unparalleled; alumni hold prominent positions in Fortune 500 companies, the U.S. Government, entertainment and media, and fields and industries in all major sectors, leading the nation through private industry and public service.

As one of the most impactful institutions of higher education in the world, Morehouse has been recognized by the National Science Foundation as the leading institution for producing Black, male college graduates who earn doctorates in education, science, mathematics, computer science, social sciences, and the arts and humanities. The College has also been recognized as the #1 producer of Rhodes Scholars among HBCUs and as a leader in producing Fulbright Scholars. Approaching 160 years of proud excellence, the College continues a long and unique history of delivering an exceptional educational experience that meets the intellectual, moral, and social needs of students representing 43 states and seven countries. Morehouse continues to be a distinguished institution dedicated to producing outstanding men and ethical leaders.

ABOUT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL

The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel is the spiritual and ethical heart of Morehouse College. It is a place where faith, intellect, excellence, and leadership unite in service to humanity. Named for one of Morehouse's most distinguished alumni, the Chapel embodies Dr. King's enduring legacy and advances his vision of the Beloved Community through education, reflection, and action.

More than a physical space, the Chapel is a global center for moral formation and ethical leadership. It brings together scholars, faith leaders, students, and change agents to advance peace and justice. Its mission is to cultivate leaders committed to nonviolence, integrity, compassion, and a just, sustainable world.

As a revered spiritual and cultural pillar in higher education, the Chapel serves as both a living memorial and a vibrant hub of community life. Through programs that integrate spiritual engagement, scholarship, and service, it fosters dialogue across academic disciplines, faith traditions, interfaith engagement, and global perspectives.

For the Morehouse community, the Chapel is both a grounding force and a call to action. It anchors the College's mission to develop men of disciplined intellect and ethical conviction, while inspiring faculty and staff to embody social responsibility, inclusivity, and moral courage. The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel continues to shine as a beacon of hope and conscience—a sacred space where Morehouse's legacy of excellence meets its calling to transform the world. It also serves as a marquee space for signature events of the College and the broader community, with the Dean playing an active role in the planning, programming, and hosting of these events.

Through signature initiatives such as the International Chapel Assistants Program, College of Ministers and Laity, Collegiate Worship (Vesper Hour), Chapel-sponsored Crown Forum sessions, and Thurman Thursdays the Chapel empowers students and the broader community to face the moral challenges of our time with courage, wisdom, and grace.

Current Chapel Programs

- **Chapel Assistants:** The Chapel Assistants program is a comprehensive year-round program that develops leadership qualities and skills in undergraduate students, many of whom go on to earn graduate and professional degrees from some of the nation's premier seminaries and university-based divinity schools. The program offers preparatory education and professional training in ministry, along with comprehensive guidance, for a new generation in developing effective ecumenical ministries.
- **College of Ministers and Laity:** One of the Chapel's signature programs attracts some of the brightest minds across disciplines to engage in dialogue, learning, and growing. The College of Ministers and Laity is unique in its combination of servanthood, scholarship, and leadership as essential requirements for ministry, whether that ministry is carried out through formal religion

or other leadership endeavors. This annual conference offers a creative learning environment where clergy and laity from diverse backgrounds, distinct faith traditions, and various generations come together as students of Dr. King's philosophies and ethical principles.

- **Collegiate Worship (Vesper Hour):** Held weekly, the Collegiate Worship Hour is a reflective, creative, and enlightening student-centered spiritual experience, open to the Atlanta University Center Consortium and wider Atlanta community. Currently offered as an evening vespers service, the Collegiate Worship Hour ministers to the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—through diverse expressions of ministry, including preaching, creative arts, drama, music, and dialogue.
- **Sandy F. Ray Preaching Lab:** The Sandy F. Ray Preaching Lab offers Chapel Assistants the opportunity to deliver sermons throughout the year for constructive criticism and advice from peers and seasoned homiletics.
- **Thurman Thursdays:** Each Thursday, the Chapel Assistants engage in table talks on issues such as politics, religion, theological formation, vocational discernment, leadership development, and church administration.

More information can be found about the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel programs [here](#).

Leadership

[Dr. F. DuBois Bowman](#), a 1992 graduate of Morehouse College, serves as the 13th president of the College. An internationally recognized expert in biostatistics and public health, his pioneering research has deepened understanding of neurological and mental health disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, depression, schizophrenia, and addiction, as well as the impact of environmental exposures on brain development in youth. Prior to returning to lead Morehouse, he served as dean of the University of Michigan School of Public Health and held key leadership roles at Columbia University and Emory University. Dr. Bowman is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, vice president of the American Statistical Association, and past president of the Eastern North American Region of the International Biometric Society.

ROLE OF THE DEAN OF THE CHAPEL

The Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel serves as the spiritual leader of Morehouse College, providing trusted pastoral care that nurtures the moral and ethical development of students, faculty, and staff. As a public theologian, the Dean fosters interfaith dialogue and engages thoughtfully with contemporary social issues that are relevant to the campus and global communities. Additionally, the Dean promotes scholarship by encouraging academic inquiry, supporting research initiatives, and creating opportunities for students and faculty to explore the intersection of theology, ethics, and social change. The Dean is charged with advancing the College's prophetic legacy of producing service-minded men who lead with spiritual maturity, moral courage, and a profound sense of social responsibility.

The Dean serves as the steward of Morehouse's historic Black religious heritage, cultivating an inclusive, interfaith environment and positioning the Chapel as a vibrant center of campus life. The role includes strategic leadership of Chapel programs—such as Chapel Assistants, Collegiate Worship, and Chapel Crown Forums—and fosters collaboration with other College units, including the Division of Student Life and the Department of Philosophy and Religion, while engaging faculty and staff in Chapel programming. The Dean also plays a crucial role in major College events, including New Student Orientation, Commencement, Homecoming, and Founders' Day, ensuring these ceremonies honor and preserve the College's sacred rituals and traditions.

The Dean must be prepared to serve simultaneously as compelling teacher, preacher, pastor, public theologian, and spiritual mentor, demonstrating moral courage, inclusivity, and ecumenical openness. The Dean must also be a capable and thoughtful administrator, ensuring operational effectiveness and responsible financial stewardship.

The next leader must be personable and accessible, engaging students in conversations about identity, mental health, and personal development, linking spiritual, intellectual, and cultural development to character formation. The Dean must also navigate the evolving nature of college ministry, introducing contemporary approaches to spiritual life and community engagement, facilitating intergroup dialogue, and developing programs for leadership growth and vocational discernment, while serving as a trusted spiritual counselor and ethical guide.

The next Dean also must demonstrate innovation, technological fluency, and the ability to balance sacred and secular dimensions of ministry. Leveraging digital platforms and social media will be essential for expanding the Chapel's reach, fostering community, and amplifying its impact.

Direct reports to the Dean include an Associate Dean of Chapel Relations, Assistant Dean of the Chapel, and Executive Assistant to the Dean. Additionally, the Dean provides oversight for student Chapel Assistants and part-time Chapel musicians.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. INTERNATIONAL CHAPEL

The next Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel will face a unique moment of opportunity and challenge. This individual will advance Morehouse's religious traditions, strengthen academic partnerships, curate student leadership programs, and expand digital engagement. The role also demands strategic fundraising and a renewed vision to position the Chapel as a center for ethical and spiritual development. Balancing administrative, pastoral, and intellectual leadership responsibilities while fostering trust and student engagement will be key. Building upon an impressive foundation, the next dean will address the following challenges and strive to use them as opportunities to propel the Chapel to even greater prominence:

Articulate a clear vision for the Chapel and spiritual life at Morehouse, and lead strategies that respond to the evolving landscapes of spirituality and religion, higher education, and the world more broadly.

The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel is a hallmark of spiritual life and moral leadership at Morehouse College. The next Dean must be a visionary who honors this legacy while boldly shaping its future—balancing tradition with innovation to meet the needs of Morehouse students. More than a building, the Chapel is a sacred space for spiritual engagement, reflection, and growth. It should continue to welcome all who seek meaning and purpose while strengthening its role as a hub of theological, moral, and personal development for Morehouse men. The next Dean must be attuned to the realities of modern college ministry, understanding that many students arrive in search of identity, purpose, and belonging. This leader must articulate and advance a forward-looking vision that is intellectually rich, spiritually diverse, and true to Morehouse’s founding Christian heritage—fostering ecumenical and interfaith engagement so that all students feel at home, regardless of faith or background. Most importantly, the Dean must preserve the Chapel’s intimacy and history while guiding it confidently into the future, ensuring it remains a vibrant center for spiritual engagement, dialogue, mentorship, and community-building.

Support students through inclusive spiritual guidance and mentorship.

The Dean of the Chapel at Morehouse College serves as a spiritual leader and mentor, guiding students in their faith, personal growth, and professional development. Central to this role is fostering an inclusive Chapel environment that emphasizes pastoral care and character formation. As a trusted advisor, the Dean offers spiritual counseling and moral guidance, helping students explore questions of identity, vocation, and purpose.

A key component of this work is the Chapel Assistants program, which embodies the Chapel’s mission. Under the Dean’s leadership, the program cultivates inclusive perspectives and provides opportunities for students to engage in spiritual leadership, theological reflection, and service. Chapel Assistants are mentored not only as future faith leaders but also as individuals preparing for diverse vocations rooted in ethical integrity. The next Dean will facilitate intergroup dialogue and manage power dynamics within the program to ensure fairness and authentic character development. Recognizing that many students seek spiritually grounded counsel, the Dean remains approachable and collaborates with campus support services. Ultimately, the Dean’s influence extends beyond the pulpit, shaping the moral and spiritual fabric of the Morehouse community through mentorship, inclusive leadership, and a commitment to holistic student development.

Advance the mission of the Chapel and the College by leading strategic fundraising initiatives that strengthen its financial foundation and enrich its historic programming.

The Dean of the Chapel must embody spiritual leadership and the vision, energy, and agility necessary to secure the financial resources that will elevate the Chapel’s mission and broaden its impact. As a compelling brand ambassador for the Chapel and the College, the Dean must be passionate about fundraising and willing to partner with the Office of Institutional Advancement, the President, and others

to cultivate support from a diverse array of donors. Central to this role is developing a visible and trusted presence among Morehouse alumni, community leaders, philanthropic partners, and other stakeholders, serving as a key ambassador for the College's broader mission.

Demonstrate strong administrative leadership and management skills to effectively guide the Chapel's operations and strategic direction.

A strong administrative foundation is essential for the next Dean of the Chapel, who must bring strategic systems thinking to the role. The Chapel serves as a central hub for numerous programs across the College, requiring effective oversight and operational excellence. The Dean will work closely with the senior leadership of the College to ensure the Chapel is fully utilized and well managed, maintaining its legacy and purpose. This includes leading improvements across the enterprise by implementing efficient systems for project execution and daily operations, calendar management, operational effectiveness, and expanding programming opportunities. A steadfast commitment to exceptional service for students, parents, faculty, alumni, and donors is essential, along with thoughtful stewardship of the Chapel's mission and its place within the broader Morehouse community.

Serve as a thoughtful leader who enriches the intellectual and spiritual life of the Chapel and the College.

The Dean of the Chapel at Morehouse College is expected to be a scholarly and thoughtful leader whose intellectual and spiritual depth inspires the campus and broader community. This includes overseeing curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities in collaboration with faculty, staff, and community partners, and fostering spaces for theological reflection and dialogue.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no single candidate will have every qualification, the search committee seeks candidates with a well-rounded combination of the following personal and professional abilities:

- **Educational preparation:** A Master of Divinity (MDiv) or a comparable masters-level degree and an earned research or professional doctorate in a relevant field from an accredited institution are required.
- **Excellent communication skills:** A highly skilled oral and written communicator who will inspire, motivate, and educate internal and external audiences; strong listening skills and the ability to foster meaningful, respectful, and productive relationships with the College's varied constituencies, stakeholders, and partners.
- **Visionary leadership:** Ability to set a clear vision and strategic priorities that expand the impact of the Chapel with the credibility and dexterity to engage collaboratively with faculty, staff, and students—as well as the extended community of parents, alumni, community partners, and other stakeholders—and to respond effectively to their needs and concerns.
- **Fundraising and financial acumen:** Proficiency in fundraising and financial management to secure and deploy the necessary resources to sustain and enhance the Chapel program.
- **Ecumenical and interfaith engagement:** Experience building strong partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally with a focus on developing, facilitating, and enhancing spiritual and religious life programming, dialogue, and services in an interfaith and/or multifaith context.
- **Scholar and thought leader:** An intellectual and spiritual depth that informs campus life, inspires public discourse, and advances Morehouse's mission through prophetic preaching, teaching, and theological reflection.
- **Administrative leadership and management:** A strong administrative leader who fosters accountability, manages operations, and drives innovation for the long-term success of the Chapel.
- **Cultural understanding:** Appreciation for Morehouse's unique culture and history, particularly its mission as the nation's only higher education institution exclusively focused on the education, development and success of Black men.
- **Integrity, moral character, and justice-centeredness:** A strong ethical foundation to guide decision-making and inspire confidence among stakeholders; a deep commitment to and demonstrated track record of justice-centered leadership in the tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- **Interpersonal skills:** A leader for whom equity, inclusion, and belonging are core values, with a strong record of advancing diversity and fostering a culture of compassion, cultural fluency, and emotional intelligence; the ability to connect with individuals at all levels, demonstrating relatability and approachability and a commitment to student well-being, growth, and development.
- **Adaptability and innovation:** Openness to change and embracing new technologies and ideas while maintaining essential rituals, traditions, and historical connectivity.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

Competitive compensation will be offered commensurate with the level of administrative and academic appointment of the selected candidate. This is an in-person position that requires full-time physical presence on the campus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. **Applications received by January 2, 2026 will receive priority consideration.** Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/morehouse-college-martin-luther-king-jr-international-chapel/dean>

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