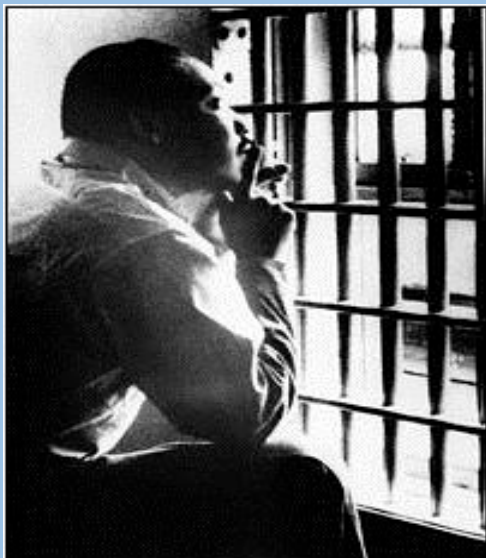


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## Thomas Merton & Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Conversation Deferred



**A Public Commemoration  
On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of Hope For Dialogue**

**Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
University Center—River Room**

Thomas Merton and Martin Luther King, Jr. were planning to meet for dialogue in 1968—for genuine engagement, away from the glaring light of mass media in order to delve into the contemplative roots of nonviolent action—but their plans ended when King was assassinated in April; Merton died in December.

Fifty years later, we gather to recall their hope and resume the challenge to revive the relationship between contemplation and action in pursuit of a more communicative way of life and a more livable world. We will re-member the issues and burdens that led Merton and King to seek deeper, contemplative forms of engaged action in a world that has now aged 50 more years and yet still seems paralyzed by the riddles of conscience, community and culture amidst increasing noise, fragmentation and benumbing trauma. Do we dare *face* each other today, can we dare *open* communication itself? We invite you to join us in earnest.

This daylong conversation, free and open to the public, will begin with a morning session featuring two addresses to help spark and provoke reflectiveness to deepen our conversation that will be further developed by an afternoon panel discussion and open forum. Our conversation leaders include:

**Pete Gathje, Memphis Theological Seminary  
Earnestine Jenkins, University of Memphis  
Andre E Johnson, University of Memphis  
Deborah Kehoe, *The Merton Annual***

**Kalemba Kizito, University of Memphis  
Gray Matthews, University of Memphis  
Bernadette McNary-Zak, Rhodes College  
Perhaps You and Others refusing to give up hope**

Sponsored by the UM Department of Communication & the International Thomas Merton Society.  
For more info, contact: [matthews@memphis.edu](mailto:matthews@memphis.edu)