



**Freedom Institute**  
Economic, Social Justice and People Empowerment



## **THE REV. DR. WENDELL ANTHONY FUTURE LEADER FELLOWSHIP**

of the Freedom Institute for Economic,  
Social Justice, and People Empowerment

*"If you faint in the day of adversity, then your strength is small,"*

Proverbs 24:10

Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony  
Founder, Freedom Institute & Pastor, Fellowship Chapel United Church of Christ  
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The Freedom Institute was founded by Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony in 2001. His vision was to create a 501(c)3 non-profit community organization. The purpose is to provide a holistic analysis and identify solutions to key issues affecting the quality of life for African Americans in particular and other persons in general. A special weekend dedicated to what is called Freedom Weekend (a weekend of Edu-tainment, Education for the head and Entertainment for the soul) was developed. For over two decades, the Freedom Institute has sponsored Freedom Weekend. The weekend provides opportunities to evaluate issues of education, healthcare, criminal justice, economic development, and youth leadership. It hosts local and national entertainers, job/health fairs, community giveaways of sport and health materials, and more. The Freedom Institute has conducted braintrusts and workshops on a variety of policy issues. Rev. Anthony created the Dr. Ron Walters National Townhall. This event was named for the late Dr. Ron Walters, noted political scientist, college professor, author, lecturer, and Presidential Consultant. Dr. Walters was also a key advisor to the Freedom Institute. Among the national figures participating in these special townhalls and braintrusts have been Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman John Conyers, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Dr. Cornel West, Ms. Susan L. Taylor, Music Mogul Russell Simmons, and the cast from the television series Soul Food, naming only a few. The Freedom Institute sponsors a podcast hosted by Rev. Anthony called The Turning Point. It features various local and national personalities who analyze issues and policies that impact the quality of life often in marginalized communities.

Rev. Anthony has served as Pastor of Fellowship Chapel United Church of Christ for 37 years. He succeeded Rev. James E. Wadsworth Jr. Rev. Anthony expanded and internationalized the ministry of Fellowship Chapel with the building of a health care clinic in Cape Coast, Ghana, West Africa. He led the construction of the new Fellowship Chapel in 2005. The campus includes a multi-purpose sanctuary, commercial kitchen, two banquet facilities, educational classrooms, community multi-purpose rooms, a health center, infant and toddler care, and various conference rooms. Rev. Anthony created the Amandla Community Development Corporation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, to secure land and provide economic and community development for the church and community. New housing in this area is being planned for the community called The Fellowship Estates. Rev. Anthony led Project D.R.E.A.M.Z.S. (Detroit Relief Effort to Aide Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa), delivering over \$350,000 in food, medicine, and prosthetic materials during the floods in that region in 2000. In 1994 he led the effort and delivered over one million dollars in medical supplies, cargo vans, food, and farming materials to the nations of Zaire and Rwanda during the tragic tribal wars between the Hutus and the Tutsis. His philanthropic work led him to spearhead Project LOVE, raising thousands of dollars to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. In 2010 he delivered \$200,000 in food supplies to the nation of Haiti to aid the victims of a tremendous earthquake. He has preached in churches in Africa as well as the Caribbean. During the pandemic of 2020, Rev. Anthony led the securing of 51,000 laptops and internet connectivity for all K-12 students in the Detroit Public Schools Community District. He along with Gary Torgow of Huntington Bank, Jerry Norcia of DTE Energy, and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan raised \$23 million to provide learning experiences for students unable to do in person learning.

Rev. Anthony has served as President of the Detroit Branch NAACP for 32 years. The Detroit Branch is the largest Branch of the NAACP. Rev. Anthony has hosted President Bill Clinton, Vice President's Al Gore, Joe Biden, and Kamala Harris. He also hosted former President Barack Obama at the 10,000-person Fight For Freedom Fund Dinner, sponsored by the Detroit Branch. Rev. Anthony is the creator of the Take Your Souls (Soles) To The Polls voter education and mobilization program. Launched in 1999, it has been adopted nationwide. Rev. Anthony founded the Fannie Lou Hamer Political Action Committee, a 501(c)4 organization in 1989. The PAC, named for famed civil rights leader Fannie Lou Hamer, is dedicated to the issues, concerns, and personalities often raised by the rejected and marginalized in the political process.

He is the recipient of numerous awards locally and nationally. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for organizations both statewide and nationally based.

*"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus  
but a molder of consensus."*

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*"The principal to be kept in mind is to know what  
we see rather than to see what we know."*

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

## FUTURE LEADER FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES

*Selected participants of the Future Leader Fellowship will be under the supervision of Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony and his designee. Future Leader Fellows must be between the ages of 20 and 36. Participants must agree to the following:*

- Recipients must agree to participate for a two-year time period.
- Recipients must agree to a commitment to be spiritually conscious and socially involved with a focus on justice.
- Candidates must have completed High School and either a two-year or currently in a four-year college program. Preference would be study in theology, seminary, community organizing, social work, race relations, public policy, or political science.
- In order to receive the Rev. Anthony experience, individuals must participate or serve part-time in institutions in which Rev. Anthony is involved. Among them, Freedom Institute, James E. Wadsworth Jr. Community Center, NAACP, or Fellowship Chapel.

## CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION:

- High school completion
- College G.P.A. 2.5
- Must complete a personal statement indicating your walk of faith
- Completion of essay on 'What Makes An Effective Leader?' Must include examples
- Must prepare and deliver for the Wendell Anthony Social Justice and Human Rights Lecture Series two (2) motivational messages and one (1) lecture during calendar year. Subjects to include social justice, civil and human rights, race relations, public policy, or faith as a force in the struggle for human rights
- Must also demonstrate ability to do meeting and assembly preparation and engage in organizing community meetings with grassroots activists
- Must be able to write articles on matters related to the Freedom Institute. Must also be able to speak and highlight the importance of key issues related to the subject at hand
- Must engage in community canvassing with other volunteers, meeting and greeting people as needed
- Must be prepared to attend certain meetings with Rev. Anthony (limited) when notified. Designed to demonstrate community leadership
- Flexibility in scheduling and meeting time during program enrollment

## ANTHONY FELLOW BENEFITS

- Mentoring and counsel with Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony
- Opportunity to engage with community leaders at various levels
- Stipend will be provided during the tenure of enrollment in the program



### **History**

The Freedom Institute for Economic, Social Justice and People Empowerment (ESP) was founded by Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony in 2001. His vision was to create a non-profit community organization. The purpose is to provide a holistic analysis and identify solutions to key issues affecting the quality of life for African Americans in particular and other persons in general.

For over two-decades, the Freedom Institute has sponsored Freedom Weekend. This is a special weekend dedicated to what would be called Freedom Weekend (a weekend of Edu-tainment, Education for the head and Entertainment for the soul). The weekend provides an opportunity to evaluate issues of education, healthcare, criminal justice, economic development, youth leadership, hosting local and national entertainers, job/health fairs, community giveaways of sport and health materials. The Institute hosts the Dr. Ron Walters National Townhall. This special event was named for the late Dr. Ron Walters, noted political scientist, college professor, author, lecturer, and presidential consultant. Dr. Walters was also a key advisor to the Freedom Institute. Speakers have included local and national political, economic, faith-based, and social impactors of our time.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Freedom Institute is to provide economic, social justice, and people empowerment to enlighten, educate, and enhance the quality of life for youth, adults, and the African American community at large.

### **Vision**

Our vision is to establish within the community an institute utilizing the thinking, talents, policies, and programs of social impactors nationwide, to creatively enhance the quality of life for youth and adults throughout the African American community.

## Application

Name		Date of Birth	
Address		City, State	Zip
E-mail		Phone	
Personal Statement Included? <small>Check One</small>		Yes ( )	No ( )
Letter of Recommendation Included? <small>Check One</small>		Yes ( )	No ( )
Areas of Leadership? <small>Check All That Apply</small>	Pastor ( )  Public Policy ( )  Community Organizing ( )	Minister ( )  Political Science ( )  Race Relations ( )	Counselor ( )  Youth Development ( )  Social Work ( )