



Rotary Club of West Ottawa

The Ruth Martin Award for Community Service¹

Conferred on Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, June 28, 2016

(The following text was read at the awards presentation ceremony)

The Ruth Martin Award for Community Service honours individuals and organizations that have performed noteworthy service for the wellbeing of the community over a number of years. This year's recipient is no stranger to anyone who lives in Ottawa. His remarkable impact on our community through dedicated work in the community has gone above and beyond his occupational role as a member of the clergy.

He gives generously of his time and talent to the local & international communities, and reaches out to people from all walks of life. He does this with sensitivity and in a special manner that incorporates his extensive academic and practical backgrounds in social work, theology, philosophy, ethics and culture. He is a teacher. He is a student. He is Anthony Bailey, the senior Minister at Parkdale United Church since 1999.

Parkdale United's "*In-From-the-Cold*" program has greatly enhanced the wellbeing of our community for over 14 years. This program reaches out to Ottawa's marginalized and vulnerable people. During the winter months, volunteers serve a 4-course hot meal to around 150 people each Saturday. It has been, and continues to be, a successful program because Anthony, using his talent to bring diverse people together, attracts volunteers from his congregation and the community who want to share their skills and resources in helping others.

Through his leadership, he is constantly providing ways and means to expand and deepen his congregation's commitment to bring about social justice in the neighbourhood, as well as in the international community, through peaceful means. For instance, his response to racist graffiti on his church's property exemplified the leadership of this man who strives for harmony and peace. When the graffiti appeared, rather than ignoring the hateful scribbles, he accepted the invitations from CBC Radio and Television, and other media, for his comments. He used these opportunities to invite the graffiti perpetrators to sit down with him for a positive dialogue. Anthony is also a strong supporter of *Black History Month* events; frequently, he has addressed school students on the topic. He has also served as an emcee for *Martin Luther King Day* ceremonies at City Hall.

Anthony has been active on many local boards of directors, including the boards of: The Ottawa Mission (for 15 years), Urban Christian Outreach (a ministry to the homeless), and Parkdale Food Centre. He is also a member of the Mayor's task force on refugees.

Anthony is a role model and an inspiration to us all — an embodiment of providing noteworthy service to our community. He epitomizes the values for which this award was created to recognize. Ottawa is so fortunate to have him living here, and we feel fortunate to have him with us this evening.

The Rotary Club of West Ottawa is honoured to present Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey with the *Ruth Martin Award for Community Service*. Anthony, please come forward to receive your award.

¹The Ruth Martin Award for Community Service is awarded by the Rotary Club of West Ottawa to recognize and honour individuals and organizations that have performed noteworthy service for the wellbeing of the community over a period of years. "Community" encompasses the communities within the National Capital Region. The Rotary Club of West Ottawa and its members are ineligible for the award.

The Award is named for the late Ruth Martin who dedicated her life to serving people directly in a "hands on" manner, all the time. Her Masters in Criminology degree focused on abused women and shelters for abused women. She chose to work directly with individuals, despite receiving offers of administrative positions in her field. Her work was carried out through the school board and the Amethyst Women's Addiction Centre where she herself performed "noteworthy service for the wellbeing of the community".