

# KING IN VIRGINIA

## BELOVED COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

MARCH 1, 2018 · PERKINS LIVING & LEARNING CENTER  
VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY, RICHMOND

### PROGRAM

#### CALL TO ORDER

SENATOR JENNIFER McCLELLAN, Chair, Virginia  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

#### WELCOME

MAYOR LEVAR STONEY, City of Richmond

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

**"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"** *Dr. King's Vision  
of a Beloved Community in Virginia Today*

JAMAR BOYD II, Virginia Union Graduate Student

DELEGATE DELORES McQUINN, 70th District

BENJAMIN RAGSDALE, Civil Rights Activist and Historian

DR. JIM SOMERVILLE, First Baptist Church

COREY D. B. WALKER, Vice President, Virginia Union

REV. JANIE WALKER, Richmond Hill

Moderated by SENATOR JENNIFER McCLELLAN

#### AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

#### CONCLUSION



PRESENTED BY THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
MEMORIAL COMMISSION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY

**I MUST CONFESS, MY FRIENDS, THAT THE ROAD AHEAD WILL NOT ALWAYS BE SMOOTH.** There will still be rocky places of frustration and meandering points of bewilderment. There will be inevitable setbacks here and there. And there will be those moments when the buoyancy of hope will be transformed into the fatigue of despair. Our dreams will sometimes be shattered and our ethereal hopes blasted. We may again, with tear-drenched eyes, have to stand before the bier of some courageous civil rights worker whose life will be snuffed out by the dastardly acts of bloodthirsty mobs. **BUT DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL AS IT IS, WE MUST WALK ON IN THE DAYS AHEAD WITH AN AUDACIOUS FAITH IN THE FUTURE...** Let this affirmation be our ringing cry. It will give us the courage to face the uncertainties of the future. It will give our tired feet new strength as we continue our forward stride toward the city of freedom. When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. **LET US REALIZE THAT THE ARC OF THE MORAL UNIVERSE IS LONG, BUT IT BENDS TOWARD JUSTICE.** Let us realize that William Cullen Bryant is right: "Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again." Let us go out realizing that the Bible is right: "Be not deceived. God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." This is our hope for the future, and with this faith we will be able to sing in some not too distant tomorrow, with a cosmic past tense, "We have overcome! We have overcome! Deep in my heart, I *did* believe we would overcome."

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., excerpted from "Where Do We Go from Here?"**

The **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission**, a statutory and bipartisan agency of the Virginia General Assembly, was created in 1992 by the General Assembly to honor the legacy of Dr. King through educational, historical and cultural programs, public policy analysis, and public discourse on contemporary issues.

**[MLKCOMMISSION.DLS.VIRGINIA.GOV](http://MLKCOMMISSION.DLS.VIRGINIA.GOV)**

