

KING IN VIRGINIA

BELOVED COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

JULY 24, 2018 · SUFFOLK CENTER
FOR CULTURAL ARTS · SUFFOLK

PROGRAM

CALL TO ORDER

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

WELCOME

DELEGATE CLIFF HAYES, MAYOR LINDA T. JOHNSON, and
SENATOR L. LOUISE LUCAS

PANEL DISCUSSION

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

HELVI HOLLAND, City Attorney, City of Suffolk

BISHOP JAMES JOHNSON, Pastor, Hill Street Worship
Center, Inc.

MAYOR LINDA T. JOHNSON, City of Suffolk

SENATOR L. LOUISE LUCAS, Eighteenth District of
Virginia

RUBY WALDEN, Civic and Community Leader

DR. FELTON WHITFIELD, District Superintendent and
Pastor

Moderated by SENATOR JENNIFER MCCLELLAN

AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

CONCLUSION

#BELOVEDCOMMUNITY
#MLK50FORWARD



PRESENTED BY THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL COMMISSION

As defined by the King Center, “In the **BELOVED COMMUNITY**, poverty, hunger and homelessness will not be tolerated because international standards of human decency will not allow it. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood. In the Beloved Community, international disputes will be resolved by peaceful conflict-resolution and reconciliation of adversaries, instead of military power. Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail over war and military conflict.”

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...** 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...** 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

