A Litany for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

LEADER: In a sermon delivered on August 11th, 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated “Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'what are you doing for others?'”

AUDIENCE: In remembrance of Martin, “What are you doing for others?”

LEADER: King stated that “an individual has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow horizons of his particular individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.”

AUDIENCE: In the name of service, “What are you doing for others?”

LEADER: King also said that “every person must decide, at some point, whether they will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.”

AUDIENCE: In the name of community, “What are you doing for others?”

LEADER: We are all the benefactors of the deeds, contributions and sacrifices of those who have gone before us. They left their mark; we enjoy the fruit of their labor. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to leave our mark and to make greater contributions to the betterment of society.

AUDIENCE: In the name of those who have gone before us, “What are you doing for others?”

LEADER: To whom much is given, much is required. The freedoms and privileges of our citizenship along with the right to pursue our dreams are gifts of immeasurable proportion. What legacy will we leave those who will come after us?

AUDIENCE: In the name of generations yet to come, “What are you doing for others?”

LEADER: In remembrance of Martin, what will be our response to life's most persistent and urgent question?

AUDIENCE: In response to the question, we endeavor to rise above the narrow confines of individualistic concerns and commit ourselves to making a difference for the betterment of society at large and within the communities in which we live.

Special thanks to:
Dr. Harris Pastides, President
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Student Life
University Housing
THE REV. DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II

The Rev. Dr. Barber was graduated cum laude from North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., receiving a B.A. in Political Science. He then earned the Master of Divinity at Duke University as a Benjamin Mays Fellow and a dean scholar. He also holds a Ph.D. from Drew University in Madison, N.J., with a concentration in public policy and pastoral care, and has also been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from NCCU. A distinguished fellow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mel King Community and Economic CoLab, he studied economic policy and community organizing.

Some of The Rev. Dr. Barber’s other accolades and accomplishments are:

• leading the N.C. NAACP, the largest state conference in the South and second largest in the nation

• helping to lead the North Carolina NAACP in filing Title VI complaint against N.C. school boards in the fight against re-segregation and inequality; also led the movement in Wake County that pushed back those who desired to re-segregate and dismantle one of the nation’s best school systems

• lecturing and speaking on issues of social activism at numerous universities and colleges, churches and national conventions

• fighting for and helping to secure millions of new dollars for low wealth and disadvantaged students

• helping to win same-day registration early voting in N.C. — the only state in the South to have it

• envisioning and helping to organize the Million Voter March in 2008 and 2012 and helped more than 1.2 million black/brown voters go to polls

• being featured in news stories by numerous African-American newspapers/radio stations, CNN, MSNBC, CBS, the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, USA Today, the Associated Press, the Tom Joyner Morning Show and a host of others advocating on behalf of moral, civil rights and social justice issues

• helping to secure the release of John McNeil, a husband and father wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison; he has also helped to secure the freedom of innocent African-American men from death row and the passage of the Racial Justice Act.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA TO HOLD 30TH COMMEMORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The University of South Carolina will commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with four special events Jan. 17-20.

King Day activities will kick off at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 17, with the Black Law Students Association legal symposium in the law auditorium. The program, “Empowering the Next Generation of Women for Community Service and Social Justice,” will feature prominent Columbia attorneys, including Attorney Sarah Leverette, Chief Justice Jean Toal and Judge Alison Lee.

Highlighting the celebration will be a commemorative breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 18, at The Zone at Williams-Brice Stadium. The breakfast will feature The Rev. Dr. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, as guest speaker. Tickets are on sale through Jan. 17 at the Carolina Coliseum Box Office. Tickets are $8 for the USC faculty and staff and the public and $3 for students.

Also during the breakfast, the MLK Committee will present the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Social Justice Awards to a student, a faculty member and a staff member. The awards recognize individuals who have exemplified the philosophies of King through random or ongoing acts of community service, social justice or racial reconciliation. In addition, the university will recognize departments and division who have been most successful at contracting with minority vendors and businesses.

The MLK Gospelfest returns to the Koger Center at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20. The musical event will feature the USC Gospel Choir in concert the Latta R. Thomas Singers of Second Calvary Baptist Church, the Bethel AME Church Choir, Word of God Church Choir and Men of Praise. The theme for the program is Martin Luther King Jr. remembered through the songs of freedom. Tickets to the concert are $10 for the USC faculty and staff and the public and $5 for students.

The University Day(s) of Service concludes MLK activities with three days of campuswide community service events. These events are set for Jan. 21, 25 and 26. Volunteers will participate from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in a variety of service projects throughout Columbia.

This year marks the 30th consecutive year that the university has held a formal program to pay tribute to the late civil rights leader. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, students from E.L. Wright Middle School have been invited to participation in an essay competition. The winners will deliver their essays during the breakfast, the concert and the law school forum.