

**MLK Closing 1/15, 8:00 pm, Rackham**

**Format: Matlock introduces Moody, Moody introduces JJD. JJD introduces co-chair, Margaret Woodbury. She introduces speaker.**

**Speaker: The Reverend Dr. Joseph Lowery, President and Co-Founder, Southern Christian Leadership Conference.**

**Rev. Lowery, honored guests, and colleagues.**

**I am honored to be here .**

**We are concluding the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Symposium with this program tonight.**

**But we are only beginning the work that has to be done in his cause....**

**The cause of justice and freedom.**

**In fact, the point of these observances and activities today and throughout the week, is to give us individually and collectively the chance to stop and reflect on our priorities and values as scholars, teachers, students and staff.**

**I hope each of us has come away from today's experiences renewed ready to take up the cause again.**

**Ready to try harder, to make sacrifices, to struggle.**

**It can be frustrating. Progress is too slow.**

**We are a big institution.**

**Sometimes it is hard to see where to start,**

or that our efforts make a difference.

There is resistance. And even hostility.

There is pain. There is always pain when there is change.

We lose our way, or take a detour.

But this University is headed in the right direction.

We are determined to live up to our goals and ideals for  
racial justice.

Every single effort makes a difference.

Dr. King knew that.

Dr. King also said that “we must use time creatively,  
in the knowledge that the time is always right to do right”

Every member of the University family can make a difference  
in making this a place that is truly welcoming to all  
to African-Americans, Latinos, Asians,  
to young and old, to people from other nations and regions,  
people who are disadvantaged, women and men,  
to the physically disabled, ... indeed, to all...

Dr. King said that

“An individual has not started living  
until he can rise above the narrow confines  
of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns  
of all humanity.

Sometimes in academia, we can forget this message.

But today we have had the chance to pause and remember.  
And to honor a man who lived--and died--for his convictions.  
I hope we will let his example inspire us in our work--and our lives--  
Whether in the classroom or laboratory, library, office,  
athletic field, museum, kitchen or dining hall,  
whether you work as an faculty member  
or a groundkeeper or secretary or nurse  
In whatever way you are contributing your part to our University  
I hope you are doing it in the light of our commitments and  
the principles of Dr. King.  
Know that every contact you have  
with a student or faculty member,  
every contact with the public  
is an opportunity to put our principles into practice.  
For those of us with the responsibility to lead the University,  
I hope that we , too, will take Dr. King's example to heart  
and seize every opportunity to bring needed change, to remove  
barriers,  
to eliminate racism and prejudice from institutional life.

### **Closing Remarks**

**Before closing, I want to thank the Martin Luther King**

Symposium Planning Committee for their extraordinary

efforts in making these events so successful.

**I will introduce you to one of the co-chairs in just**

a moment.

**But I would like in particular to acknowledge the**

extraordinary efforts of Andrea Monroe Fowler

**And all of those students, faculty, and staff who**

are making this remarkable series of events

possible.

**We are deeply in your debt.**

**Now I want to introduce to you the co-Chair of the Dr. MLK, Jr.,**

**Symposium Planning Committee, Dr. Margaret Woodbury.**

**Dr. Woodbury is well known to the University community**

**for her pioneering leadership in medical education**

**especially in the recruitment of minority students.**

**For her work, she has gained national attention and helped to**

**make our Medical school a leader in educating Black doctors.**

**On behalf of the entire community,**

**I would like to thank and her Co-Chair, Barbara Robinson,**

**for their efforts on our behalf.**

**Dr. Woodbury**