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## Benjamin Elijah Mays

Mr. President, I have the honor to present to you as a candidate for an honorary degree Benjamin Elijah Mays — minister, teacher, college president and eloquent voice for the brotherhood of man.

We are already aware of his power as a speaker. As a writer he is equally effective in stirring the minds of men. He has written, or shared in writing, five books. He is the author of more than half a hundred articles. One of his books — so important a book that it has been revised and republished — carries the title *Seeking to be Christian in Race Relations*, and the title is significant. For he has never permitted himself to become the querulous voice of a minority, pleading for rights. Instead, he speaks as a member of the Christian community which seeks to be beyond race and beyond color. He is well named, for he is a prophet of an order in which all men's lives, being free of hatred and prejudice and bigotry, are full of grace, and in which true sympathy, genuine understanding, and Christian love make for the spiritual health of oppressors and minority alike.

His life is as eloquent as his words, and he is always in demand. He has been called upon to serve as the President of Morehouse College. He has been elected a Trustee of the National Fund for Medical Education and to the governing boards of the Institute of International Education, the Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute of Liberia, and the National YMCA. He has been chosen to serve as Vice-President of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, as a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, and as President of the United Negro College Fund.

In recognition of all this — and, more important, in humble acknowledgment of his being what he is, a gracious example to all of us — some eight other institutions have already conferred upon him honorary degrees. I am sorry that we could not be the first. I am sure we will by no means be the last.

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon him be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.