In 2002 we learned of a street on campus named Confederate Place. A group of campus leaders came together – took suggestions to rename as Unity Place.

It was further decided that this area where we are be developed as Freedom Park, telling the history of the Civil Rights struggle in our nation/state.

We also wanted to celebrate the legacy of the great Civil Rights leaders in our community:

- Ann M. Braden
- Dr. Rufus E. Clement
- Lyman Tefft Johnson
- Dr. Lucy Freibert
- Dr. Charles Henry Parrish, Jr.
- Dr. Eleanor Young Love
- Dr. Joseph H. McMillan, Sr.
- Woodford Porter
- Wilson W. Wyatt, Sr., and
- Dr. J. Blaine Hudson

2015 State of the University week we renamed this area Charles Parrish Park.

Dr. Parrish:
- Faculty at Simmons
- First African-American UofL Department Chair
- A renowned scholar

Today we gather to announce the immediate removal of the Confederate Monument from this property.

The monument was dedicated in 1895 as a gift to Louisville to commemorate the Kentucky soldiers who fought for the Confederacy and died in America’s Civil War.

The women who raised $12,500 to erect this monument knew the men—husbands, brothers, fathers—who died for Kentucky; they were not political about their motives.
Third Street ended at Shipp Street and the monument was installed in a grassy pastoral setting as the artist intended.

The nation was trying to reunite the country from a war that pitted brother against brother—it was a very dark period in American history.

The Confederacy represented a time when all men were NOT considered equal—many were owned and traded.

The monument was not placed here to remind generations of students of the reasons for the Civil War; it was about the loss of friends and family.

It deserves to be reunited with those who died in battles because they were soldiers.

And it is now time, as the University of Louisville and the City of Louisville focus on a future that welcomes all people and respects the contributions they make to enrich our community, to move the monument to a more appropriate location.

We are considering multiple options throughout the area and state that would be more appropriate than in the middle of 3rd Street where more than 18,000 cars pass daily.

This monument reflects a tension that inhibits the equality of people and the opportunities opened by education.

The University has in the last year renewed our efforts/focus attention on making our campuses more welcoming, more inclusive, and a better learning environment for our students and employees.

UofL in recent years has transformed into a college of choice, and our responsibility is to graduate our students with the skill set to support them throughout their professional/personal careers.

And also to reflect a value/principle we hold dear at UofL – inclusiveness, diversity, social justice.

The environment and academic climate of our campus is critical to the success of our students in this global, rapidly changing world.
● It’s time for UofL and the City of Louisville to follow the example of the Civil Rights leaders portrayed at the northern boundary of Parrish Freedom Park.

● And time for us to establish our strategies and directions on achieving the inclusivity that Mayor Fischer and I know will make our community thrive.