1954
4 Oct

porary Situation." So that your three lectures would grow out of this general theme. However, if you are more disirous of lecutring in another area, that will be acceptable. The time limit for the lecture and discussion should not exceed one hour and fifteen minutes. Although this is referred to as a lecture series, it is hoped that the lectures will be inspirational as well as informative.

I am seeking to make this a "big event" for our church and the community at large. I sincerely hope that you can accept the invitation. Your presence as well as your message would mean so much to the success of the occasion. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible concerning this matter so that I can proceed in setting up my church calendar for the year.

I hope everything goes well with you. Give my regards to all my friends at Virginia Union.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

M. L. King, Jr.

MLK/csk

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

From Harold Edward Pinkston

4 October 1954
Richmond, Va.

Pinkston, a student at Virginia Union University in Richmond, writes to his former Boston roommate and Alpha Phi Alpha brother about their mutual friends in the Boston area. Prior to entering Virginia Union in the fall of 1952, Pinkston was assistant pastor along with King of the Reverend William H. Hester's Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury, Massachusetts. In 1937 the Reverend L. A. Pinkston, Harold Edward Pinkston's cousin, had defeated King, Sr., in a bid for the presidency of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia. The two remained close friends during Pinkston's long tenure as president, traveling together as delegates to the National Baptist Convention. The elder Pinkston served on King, Jr.'s ordination council in 1948.

1. Harold Edward Pinkston (1931- ) received the B.A. and M.Div. degrees from Virginia Union in 1954 and 1957, respectively; the M.A. from Connecticut's Wesleyan University in 1969; the Ph.D. from Temple University in 1971; and the Th.D. from Indiana's Trinity Theological Seminary in 1979. He was pastor of Baptist churches in Virginia, New Jersey, and New York before becoming pastor in 1976 of the Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. Since 1970 he has been professor of English at Ohio Wesleyan University. Pinkston also served as vice-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Virginia affiliate. See Harold Edward Pinkston to King Papers Project, 8 March 1992.
Dear Brother King,

Greetings to you from Union, all the boys, and your admirer as well as “potentate brother of the Cloth.” I trust that you have been well and all has been well with you and Mrs. King.

Say King, my main objective is this: During the summer just leaving, or rather just before, I have lost contact with Miss Rosetta Moore’s address and I really would like very much to have it. Can you help me? I believe she has finished Harvard now and I don’t know whether she has gone “home” (to Florida which address I don’t know) or New Orleans to teach, or returned to Dillard Univ. to work in the seminars there.

If you can locate it for me Brother, I shall greatly appreciate your kindness. I’ll await your response as soon as you can reply.

How are your studies coming, have you completed them as yet? What about Bob. Carter, I send my best regards to him and “Niel” Range. Best wishes also to Rev. Hester and Mrs and Mr. Johnson on Shawmut Ave.

Oh yes, I might add—Upon my completion of my college work in Feb. I plan to enter seminary either in Los Angeles, Calif., or Colgate-Rochester in Rochester, N.Y.

So-long Brother, I await “the good news” from you.

Fraternally yours, in Christ & ΑΦΑ
[signed] H. E. Pinkston

TALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.

From Clyde L. Reynolds

9 October 1954

In one of the few surviving letters from a member of Dexter during King’s early years as pastor, Reynolds thanks King for the eulogy of his mother.

Dear Reverend King,

You could not have delivered a better eulogy for my mother if you had been her pastor for 50 years. Thank you very much for a brilliant and comforting message, and a beautiful Christian funeral service. Both will remain with me vividly as a fitting and sacred memorial.

May you continue to bring to “Dexter Avenue” dynamic and intelligent leadership. God bless you!

Sincerely,
[signed] Clyde L. Reynolds

ALS. MLKP-MBU: Box 117.