for you to decide, isn’t true. Well anyway, you let me know definitely what you

May I say many congratulations to you and Mrs King in the blessing of the Lord

of a daughter. I think her name is really beautiful. Many happy returns. But you

must remember that you have just begun walking the floor. But I can assure you

that they will be pleasant.

Things here in New York are going fairly well. The Baptist in New York is really

a disorganized group. Frankly we are not doing much as a group, but churches

individually are really moving forward. When you see Mac give him my best regards.

Sincerely,
[signed] Whit

{over}

Dr. Boddie is leaving Rochester to become Assistant Secretary of the Foreign

Mission Boards of American Baptist Convention. I don’t know much about the

set-up, but if you are interested in coming north, it might bear investigation. It

looks like it might be a good opportunity for the right man. I feel that you might

be the right man.

TAHLS. DABCC.

3. Charles Emerson Boddie (1911–), born in New Rochelle, New York, was pastor of Mt. Olivet

Baptist Church in Rochester. He left in 1956 to join the staff of the American Baptist Convention,

remaining until 1963, when he became president of the American Baptist Theological Seminary in

Nashville. Boddie and his brother, J. Timothy Boddie, were friends of the King family. See also Bar-

bour to King, 2 April 1956, pp. 210–211 in this volume.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project

Program for MIA Mass
Meeting at First Baptist Church

15 December 1955
Montgomery, Ala.

This is King’s copy of an agenda for the MIA’s fourth mass meeting, which was held at
Rev. Ralph Abernathy’s First Baptist Church. At the bottom King wrote notes for his
“Progress Report and instructions.” In his talk he sharply distinguished between the
boycott tactics of the MIA and those of the Citizens Council, probably responding to a
13 December Montgomery Advertiser editorial, titled “The 2-Edged Sword,” that
equated the two. Rufus A. Lewis, head of the transportation committee, reported that
the three-day-old car pool system had been successful, with 215 volunteer drivers
participating.

Mass Meeting of Montgomery Improvement Association
First Baptist Church—December 15, 1955—7:00 P.M.
Presiding Officer—Roy Bennett (Speaks of the importance of following
the program)
Hymn—“Lift Him Up.”
Reading of Scripture—Rev. H. H. Johnson
Invocation—Rev. R. W. Hinson
Song—“Joy to the World”
Report of Transportation Committee—Rev. W. J. Powell [Mr. Rufus Lewis]
Acknowledgment of Visitors—Mr. J. Pmter (Pierce)
Progress Report and instructions—Rev. M. L. King
Appeal for Funds—and Collection of Funds—Rev. R. J. Glascoe
Closing Remarks—Rev. M. L. King
Closing Hymn—[strikeout illegible] “Blessed Be the Tide”
Benediction—Rev. J. T. Thomas [E. H. Mason]
Next Meeting—Hutchinson Street Baptist Church—Rev. H. H. Johnson
Time—7:00, Monday night.

[1,954.60]
1. Thanks for presence
2. The papers reveal that we have many white with us
3. Again we are not to be compared to the Citizen's Councils
4. We are still getting cooperation (we walk if necessary)
5. We are waiting to hear from Chicago
Announcement: The new Headquarters
Patronize Negro Business All drivers meet at Dexter tomorrow

THD. MLKP-MBU: Box 6.

1. H. H. Johnson was pastor of Hutchinson Street Baptist Church from 1934 to 1971 and was among the ministers indicted for his role in the boycott.
2. William J. Powell (1908–1982) was pastor of Old Ship AME Zion Church from 1953 to 1964. He served on the original executive board of the MIA and was among the indicted ministers.
3. James E. Pierce (1895–1982), born in Lowndes County, Alabama, was an active leader in the Montgomery black community before and during the Montgomery bus boycott. Pierce received his B.S. from the University of Toledo and his M.S. from Ohio State University. In the early 1930s he became a professor of political science at Alabama State College and later chair of the department. As secretary of the Civic League and board member of other organizations, Pierce championed the cause of voter registration. He was a member of the MIA's executive board and negotiating committee and was among those indicted for their role in the bus boycott. He wrote, with Ralph H. Hines, “Negro Leadership after the Social Crisis: An Analysis of Leadership Changes in Montgomery, Alabama,” Phylon 26 (1965): 162–172.
4. This is the amount of money collected at the preceding mass meeting, at Bethel Baptist Church, on 12 December 1955.
5. King refers to the extent of white support for the protest as indicated by letters to the editor—for example, city librarian Juliette Morgan’s letter, titled “Lesson from Gandhi,” in the Montgomery Advertiser on 12 December 1955.
6. See King et al. to the National City Lines, Inc., 8 December 1955, p. 80–81 in this volume. On 16 December 1955 Vice President Totten of National City Lines in Chicago came to Montgomery to confer with the local bus company and city officials; he contacted the MIA the following day.
7. King announced the transfer of the MIA's office from the Alabama Negro Baptist Center to Lewis's Citizens Club. The MIA left its first headquarters after the white Montgomery Baptist Association pressured the center's trustees. In late January the organization had to relocate again when city officials threatened to revoke the club's license. After temporary lodging in the basement of Abernathy's First Baptist Church, the MIA found a permanent office in the building owned by the Bricklayers Union at 530 South Union Street.
PROGRAM

Mass Meeting of Montgomery Improvement Association
First Baptist Church — December 15, 1955 — 9:00 P.M.
Presiding Officer — Roy Bennett (Speaks of the importance of following the plan)
Hymn — "Lift Him Up."
The Reading of Scripture — Rev. H. H. Johnson
 Invocation — Rev. H. N. Milson

Song — "Joy to the World" Mr. Rufus Lewis
Report of Transportation Committee — Rev. John F. Powell
Acknowledgment of Visitors — Rev. J. Nixon Pierce
Progress Report and Instructions — Rev. S. L. King
Appeal for Funds — and Collection of Funds — Rev. R. J. Glassoe
Closing Remarks — Rev. H. L. King

Closing Hymn — "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"
Benediction — Rev. E. H. Nixon

Next Meeting — Hutchinson Street Baptist Church — Rev. H. H. Johnson
Time — 7:00, Monday night.

1. Thanks for presence.
2. The papers which we have may write with one
3. again we are not to be compared to the citizen's council
4. We are still getting cooperation (we are.
5. We are waiting to hear from them

Announcement of New Headquarters

Shoe Repair Men All members meet at 7:00