
STORY CARD:

Martin Luther King, Jr. visits Lowell, Massachusetts



Image 1. *First United Baptist Church, Lowell Massachusetts.* Image 2. *Martin Luther King, Jr., Student Photograph, Boston University.*

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), was born in Atlanta, Georgia, son of Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams.

King was invited to visit Lowell on April 12, 1953, by Rev. Otto R. Loverude, (1900-1973), the minister of First United Baptist Church, Church Street, Lowell. King, who was then a student in the doctoral program at Boston University, came to the church to present a program.

More Information:

In a letter of invitation addressed to King, Loverude wrote:

"Tell us something of what it means to be a member of the minority race in the South..."

Martin Luther King, Jr. sent this response back to Loverude:

"This is to acknowledge your letter of February 18. Following your suggestion I will use as a subject at the 5:30 discussion group: 'What it means to be a Negro in the South.' My subject for the regular evening service will be: 'What does it mean to believe in God?'

I am very happy to be able to serve you and your church and I will look forward to this occasion with great anticipation. Please feel free to contact me about any additional information. I would appreciate it very much if you would give me some directions as to getting to the church. I will be driving out.

Sincerely yours,

Martin L. King Jr."

Source: Correspondence. Rev. Otto R. Loverude and Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Papers, 1954-1968, [Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts](#).

Sources: Adapted from [Untold Lowell Stories: Black History](#) UMass Lowell University Library Center for Lowell History.