MINISTERS’ HOME
DEXTER AVENUE KING MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

House built circa 1912. It has been the home of the ministers of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church since 1919. Its most famous occupant, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., lived here from Sept. 1954-Feb. 1960. During this time he led the bus boycott and launched an outstanding career as a world leader for civil rights and humanitarian causes. When a bomb damaged the house on January 31, 1956, Dr. King returned from a boycott meeting and calmed an angry crowd from the porch, averting possible violence. From 1948-1952 the house was occupied by Dr. Vernon Johns, an earlier advocate of civil rights.

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Civil Rights Movement in Alabama
Clarence Bozeman has taught high school in Alabama and Ohio. He has participated in civil rights demonstrations and lectured at several colleges and universities on the history of the civil rights movement.

Clarence earned a Bachelor’s degree from Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama, where he majored in American History and Social Studies. Mr. Bozeman earned his Master’s Degree in Educational Administration from Fordham University in New York City, as well as an Educational Specialist Degree from Cleveland State University in Superintendency Leadership.

During his college days at Alabama State University in Montgomery, he was privileged to serve as the first full time transportation employee for Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. In that capacity, he was also the driver for the family of Martin Luther King Jr. During 1958-1959 he transported Martin Luther King Jr. and wife, Coretta, on speaking engagements throughout the state of Alabama. On those occasions he had opportunity to share in the private thoughts and conversations with Dr. and Mrs. King. Conversations that ranged from aspirations and barriers in the black community, the Montgomery bus boycott, student sit ins, and other civil rights challenges.

During the years of 1971-1976, Clarence served as Director of the street Academy Program at the National Urban League in New York City. Later he was promoted to Director of Education under the direction of Vernon Jordan.

Past Martin Luther King, Jr. Speaking Engagements

Lake County NAACP Celebration
Lakeland Community College
Kirtland, Ohio

Medical Mutual Insurance Co. Employees
Cleveland, Ohio

First Baptist Church
Aliceville, Alabama

Walsh University
Prayer Breakfast
North Canton, Ohio

Mt. Zion Church
Oakwood Village
Oakwood, Ohio

St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church
Beachwood, Ohio

United States District Court
Northern District of Ohio
Black Heritage Celebration
Cleveland, Ohio

The Lake County Bar Association
Literary Committee
Painesville, Ohio