A little more than five years ago I accepted a pastorate of this church. We started out at that moment in a great and creative spiritual venture.

You responded to my program with a cooperative spirit that could hardly be duplicated anywhere. At that time my only desire was to serve the First Avenue Baptist Church to the best of my ability.

Little did I know when I came to this city that in a few months a movement would commence in Montgomery that would change the course of my life forever. But history still being written unfortunately cannot yet impose itself upon us prophetically. Unknown

and unexpected, I was catapulted into the leadership of the Montgomery movement. At points I was unprepared for the symbolic that history had thrust upon me.
everything happened so quickly that I had no
time to think through the implications of such leaders.
At first, I was unprepared for the symbolic role that
Justice asked that young men. But then came no
way out. I, like everybody in Montgomery, was
pulled into the mainstream by a daily
tide of historical necessity.

As a result of my leadership in
the Montgomery movement, my duties and
activities multiplied. A multiplicity of new responsibilities
pressed in upon me in almost staggering torrent.
I stood up in the public arena of civil rights
and we would have expected that many
of these responsibilities would be tapped off after the
Biennial. But now three years after the
termination of the bus struggle, the same reality
stoids at point the demands have increased.