

KING IN RICHMOND

SUMMER 1953
VIRGINIA UNION
UNIVERSITY

In an early visit to Virginia, Dr. King attended and spoke at an interseminary conference at Virginia Union University. King, who was then pursuing a doctorate in systematic theology from Boston University, stayed the night in a Virginia Union dormitory guest room. A friend later wrote to King of the “lasting effect” of his two sermons during the visit.

It was at Virginia Union during this time that Dr. King met his friend Wyatt Tee Walker, who would eventually become his chief of staff and lead the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as its first full-time executive director, shaping the course of historic civil rights campaigns.

NOVEMBER 2, 1956
VIRGINIA UNION
UNIVERSITY

Dr. King concluded the three-day 69th annual convention of the Virginia Teachers Association in the Belgian Building at Virginia Union University, delivering his talk, “Facing the Challenge of a New Age.”

**FEBRUARY 27 -
MARCH 1, 1957**
VIRGINIA UNION
UNIVERSITY

Returning to Virginia Union University, Dr. King preached, “Remember Who You Are,” “Going Forward by Going Backward,” and “Three Dimensions of a Complete Life,” as part of the university’s annual Week of Prayer.

JANUARY 1, 1960
VIRGINIA STATE
CAPITOL

Dr. King addressed a crowd of 2,600 at what was then the Mosque Theater, now Altria Theater, during the Pilgrimage of Prayer rally, urging Governor Almond to open Prince Edward county schools, which were illegally closed and remained so until 1964 in defiance of the *Brown v. Board of Education* desegregation ruling. The rally culminated in a march on Virginia’s State Capitol. King had endorsed but not attended the same rally held the previous year, creating an audio recording for the rally and writing in his endorsement, “Virginia, in this critical hour, has the opportunity to give direction and destiny to our troubled South. As Virginia goes, so goes the South, perhaps America, and the world.”

**SEPTEMBER 24 -
SEPTEMBER 27, 1963**
VIRGINIA UNION
UNIVERSITY

As president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. King attended its 7th annual conference in Richmond and spoke on the conference’s final evening in the Belgian Building at Virginia Union University.



VUU’s Belgian Building, the site of many talks by Dr. King



Dr. King and Wyatt Tee Walker



En route to Petersburg, Dr. King speaks with Ben Ragsdale in Richmond in 1967

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MEMORIAL COMMISSION’S KING IN VIRGINIA PROJECT

