

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Walker-Smith, Angelique, 1958-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 11, 2000
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2000
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:58:30).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Minister Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith (1958 - ) was the first African American and first woman to serve as executive director of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Indiana. Walker-Smith also does extensive media work as the host of, "Faces of Faith" on PAX Television Network, a co-host on the Odyssey Hallmark Cable Network and a columnist for the Indianapolis Star-News newspaper. Walker-Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 11, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2000_040
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith was born on August 18, 1958, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Reverend Roosevelt and Geneva Walker. As a child, she spent summers and holidays in the rural south in Alabama with her family and still maintains a kindred rapport there.

After attending both public and private schools, she went to Kent State University, graduating with a degree in arts in telecommunications (broadcast journalism). She decided to follow in her father's footsteps and entered Yale University Divinity School. Completing her Masters Degree in 1983, Walker-Smith became the first African American woman to graduate from the Doctor of Ministry Program at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Currently, Walker-Smith serves as the Executive Director of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. She is the first African American and first woman to do so. Walker-Smith has lived in three African countries and has traveled extensively throughout Africa and the world. Her journalism background is serving her well as the host of *Faces of Faith* on PAX Television Network, a co-host on the Odyssey Hallmark Cable Network and a columnist for the *Indianapolis Star-News* newspaper.

As the Executive Director of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Walker-Smith works to stop violence in the inner city. Walker-Smith organizes prayer vigils around this issues, but believes that racial and economic issues are at the heart of violence. She has also spoken at the Indiana Women's Prison since 1991.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 11, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Minister Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith (1958 - ) was the first African American and first woman to serve as executive director of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Indiana. Walker-Smith also does extensive media work as the host of, "Faces of Faith" on PAX Television Network, a co-host on the Odyssey Hallmark Cable Network and a columnist for the Indianapolis Star-News newspaper.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

## Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Walker-Smith, Angelique, 1958-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Walker-Smith, Angelique, 1958---Interviews

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African American women clergy--Indiana--Indianapolis--Interviews

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African American television personalities--Interviews

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Race awareness

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Cleveland (Ohio)--Social life and customs

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Ku Klux Klan (1915-)--Ohio

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Children of divorced parents--United States

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Kent State University

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Yale University. Divinity School

---

Kent State University

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African American missionaries--Interviews

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National Baptist Convention of America

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Death row--United States

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Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis

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## **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## **Occupations:**

Minister

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## **HistoryMakers® Category:**

## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, July 11, 2000. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **Other Finding Aid**

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## **Detailed Description of the Collection**

### **Series I: Original Interview Footage**

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Section A2000\_040\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:56 2000/07/11

Minister and journalist Angelique Walker-Smith begins by recalling her father's and mother's backgrounds and explaining how they met in Cleveland, Ohio. Walker-Smith shares memories of her family life in Cleveland and then details several encounters that increased her racial awareness as a child, including an incident involving the Ku Klux Klan when she lived in Springfield, Ohio. She also describes her childhood personality and her spirituality as a child.

African American women clergy--Indiana--Indianapolis--Interviews.

African American television personalities--Interviews.

Race awareness.

Cleveland (Ohio)--Social life and customs.

Ku Klux Klan (1915-)--Ohio.

Children of divorced parents--United States.

Yale University. Divinity School.

Kent State University.

African American missionaries--Interviews.

National Baptist Convention of America.

Death row--United States.

Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Section A2000\_040\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:17 2000/07/11

Minister and journalist Angelique Walker-Smith describes her schooling and recalls a mentor who introduced her to the study of the church and religion. She talks about her feelings after her parents divorced, and explained how the divorce influenced her decision to attend Kent State University. Walker-Smith describes her time at Kent State, discussing her interest in many different subjects, including communications, religion, and African studies. She then discusses her marriage and her decision to attend divinity school. She details the environment of Yale Divinity School, and addresses the topic of race and gender in the black church.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Section A2000\_040\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:44 2000/07/11

Minister and journalist Angelique Walker-Smith details her ordination into the Baptist church in Harlem and explains why she chose to be a Baptist. Walker-Smith then discusses her first job as a pastor in Connecticut and explains how she was able to unite the racially diverse congregation. Walker-Smith also details her missionary work in Sudan, telling of how her interactions with devout Muslims helped to shape her own faith. Walker-Smith then discusses her career during the 1990s, when she became the first African American woman to earn a doctorate of ministry at Princeton University's Theological Seminary. She also discusses her ministry work in Indianapolis, her involvement with Death Row prisoners, and her column in the Indianapolis Star newspaper.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Section A2000\_040\_001\_004, TRT: 0:27:33 2000/07/11

Minister and journalist Angelique Walker-Smith discusses at length the role of the black church, particularly how the church should be involved in community building. She also comments on the National Baptist Convention. Walker-Smith talks about her future plans and her work with the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. Finally, Walker-Smith reflects on her life of faith and expresses her hopes and concerns for the black community.