Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616
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Creator: Roddy-Hart, Rev. Marion

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart,

Dates: December 16, 2002

Bulk Dates: 2002

Physical Description: 4 Betacam SP videocassettes (1:45:40).

Abstract: Pastor Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart (1937 - ) is the pastor at Albright Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania. Roddy-Hart was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 16, 2002, in State College, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2002_229

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The Reverend Marion J. Roddy-Hart was born in Chicago. The daughter of a nurse and a manufacturer and one of seven children, Roddy-Hart attended DuSable High School, graduating in 1950. Later, she attended Chicago State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1970. After earning some post-graduate credits at the University of Illinois, Roddy-Hart earned a master's degree from Lancaster Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1995.

Roddy-Hart spent many of her early years working in Chicago. She started her career performing administrative work with the City Colleges of Chicago. From there, she joined the City of Chicago Department of Health, also in an administrative role. After earning her M.A. from Lancaster, Roddy-Hart became a student pastor, where she has served since 1998. Since then, she has also become the pastor of the Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania. Roddy-Hart has also been active with the NAACP for more than twenty years. She is married to Morris E. Hart.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 16, 2002, in State College, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 4 Betacam SP videocassettes. Pastor Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart (1937 - ) is the pastor at Albright Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access
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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Roddy-Hart, Rev. Marion
Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart--Interviews

African American clergy.

African American women clergy--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers
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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 7/9/2012 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage, December 16, 2002

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002_229_001_001, TRT: 0:29:01 2002/12/16

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart discussed her rich family background, which includes the professional careers of her grandfather, Josiah T. Wall and father, James Turner Wall, in addition to her mother, Anna May Wall (nee Phillips), family’s contributions of establishing the Whitfield Mills Road community in Jackson, Mississippi. Reverend Roddy-Hart discussed her relationship with her father, who died in her youth, and mother, growing up on the South Side of Chicago in a community-style apartment building in the Bronzeville Community, and experiences at Willard Elementary school. In addition, Reverend Roddy-Hart shared how she received a “special healing”, which cured her of a debilitating disease, during her youth.

Walls, Josiah T. (Josiah Thomas), 1842 – 1905
African American families--Death.
African American neighborhoods--Illinois--Chicago--South Side
African Americans--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002_229_001_002, TRT: 0:29:00 2002/12/16
Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart attended DuSable High School which provided a structured performance arts and sports curriculum. Classes included concert and jazz band taught by Captain Walter Dyett. Nat King Cole and Lester Young were students of Dyett’s who became professional musicians. The Regal Theater, which hosted performances by James Brown, Pearl Bailey, Eartha Kitt, and Sammy Davis, Jr., was a popular place in the neighborhood. After graduation, Reverend Roddy-Hart worked and took courses intermittently at Loop [Harold Washington] and Wilson [Kennedy-King] Junior Colleges. She worked simultaneously at the Chicago Health Department and for the U.S. Public Health Services before gaining employment at the City Colleges of Chicago, Malcolm X and Olive Harvey. Reverend Roddy-Hart has been a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Zion Missionary Baptist Church. In 1975, she made her church home at Trinity United Church of Christ.

DuSable High School
Dyett, Walter, 1901-1969
Loop College (Chicago, Ill.)
Chicago City Junior College.
African American churches--Illinois--Chicago.
African American women college administrators.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002_229_001_003, TRT: 0:29:10 2002/12/16

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart recognized a higher calling to the ministry when she was seventeen. Years later after meeting Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr., pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ, she felt confirmation to begin in the ministry. In 1975, Reverend Roddy-Hart joined Trinity United Church of Christ and co-created the employment ministry, a single-people’s ministry, coordinated social gatherings and established an extended family network. Reverend Roddy-Hart credits Dr. Wright’s teachings for her learning the meaning of the Bible and how to teach Bible lessons. Reverend Roddy-Hart was a deacon at Trinity, had the opportunity to serve in the pulpit, which heightened her awareness to provide ministry. In 1988, Reverend Roddy-Hart moved to State College, Pennsylvania and graduated from Lancaster Theology Seminary. In April 2001, Reverend Roddy-Hart completed an internship as the Interim Pastor at Faith United Church of Christ in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. In June 2002, Reverend Roddy-Hart became a minister with Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church.

African American churches--Illinois--Chicago.
Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago, Illinois).
Wright, Jeremiah A., Jr
United Church of Christ--Relations.
African American women clergy--Training of.

Video Oral History Interview with Rev. Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002_229_001_004, TRT: 0:18:29 2002/12/16

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart shares her hopes for the black community, views on mega-churches and women in the ministry. Her hopes for the Black community are that they decide who they are and what they are going to do about it. That they rise up again to be a people of integrity, faith and hope. Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart views mega-churches as akin to supermarkets and shopping malls. That megachurches, literally and figuratively, do not fit members into a unified space and although members are in service they are still
distanced from the minister. According to Reverend Roddy-Hart, the roles of women in the ministry are changing. Women are the strong hold of the church. Reverend Roddy-Hart would like to be remembered as a person who loved the Lord and that loved her fellow man. She believes that you can make it, black or white, if you have God by your side.

Big churches.

African American women clergy.
African American families.
African American women clergy--Interviews.