

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Peete, Nan Arrington, 1938-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete,
Dates:	March 5, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:19:21).
Abstract:	Management consultant and minister Nan Arrington Peete (1938 -) was the first ordained woman to address the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England. She represented the Episcopal Church on the National Ministries Unit of the National Council of Churches in Christ (NCCC) and on the Inclusiveness and Justice Standing Committee of the NCCC. Peete was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 5, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_017
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

An Episcopalian priest, the Reverend Canon Nan Arrington Peete was born on August 19, 1938, in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory School in 1955. Her parents, Phoebe and Maurice Arrington, worked as a teacher and civil engineer, respectively. Her father lived mostly in Michigan where his work projects were located, but he traveled to Chicago every week to be with the family. After high school, Peete married and had two children, Richard and Valerie, and her family relocated to Los Angeles. She earned her B.A. degree in economics from Occidental College in Los Angeles in 1975, her M.A. degree in human resource management from the University of Redlands in Redlands, California in 1978, and her M.Div.degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York City in 1984.

Prior to entering the seminary, Peete was a management consultant with Coopers and Lybrand Accounting Firm, where she was an expert in organizational management and financial analysis. After her ordination in 1984, Peete was the curate at St. Mark's Church in Upland, California, and in 1985 became rector of All Saints Church in Indianapolis. Working with the Indianapolis Episcopal Metro Council, she involved the parish in housing the homeless in the nave of the church, which eventually led to the development of the Dayspring family shelter ministry. From 1989 to 1994, Peete served in the Diocese of Atlanta as Canon to the Ordinary. In this assignment, she was responsible for the ordination process of priests, the Training-in-Ministry program, and the deployment of clergy for congregations seeking clergy.

In 1988, Peete was invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to be a consultant for the Lambeth Conference, a conference of Bishops representing Dioceses around the world. She was the first ordained woman to address this body, which meets every ten years in Canterbury, England. She faced opposition but also received tremendous support as she made her case in the speech she gave. The speech was well received, and resulted in an international

policy change and the ordination of many women priests and the subsequent ordination of women as Bishops of the Episcopal Church. She was also a speaker at the pre-Lambeth meeting of the Afro-Anglican Bishops, held in Cambridge, England. She has been invited to speak and preach at a number of international and national meetings, conventions and assemblies.

From 1994 to 1999, Peete served on the staff at Trinity Church Wall Street as the associate for Pastoral and Outreach ministries, and as the Canon for Ministry in the Diocese of Southern Ohio from 1999 to 2003. She became Canon for Deployment and Ordination for the Diocese of Washington in March 2003.

Peete represents the Episcopal Church on the National Ministries Unit of the National Council of Churches in Christ (NCCC), and on the Inclusiveness and Justice Standing Committee of the NCCC. She was one of the keynote speakers at the 1995 Afro-Anglican conference in Cape Town, South Africa. She also participated in the first Afro-Anglican conference in Barbados in 1985. She serves on many church-related boards and commissions.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete was conducted by Sandra Ford Johnson on March 5, 2004, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Management consultant and minister Nan Arrington Peete (1938 -) was the first ordained woman to address the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, England. She represented the Episcopal Church on the National Ministries Unit of the National Council of Churches in Christ (NCCC) and on the Inclusiveness and Justice Standing Committee of the NCCC.

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®.

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:

Peete, Nan Arrington, 1938-

Johnson, Sandra Ford (Interviewer)

Lane, Edgar Carey (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Peete, Nan Arrington, 1938---Interviews

Women priests--Interviews

African American Episcopalians--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Episcopal Church

Occupations:

Minister

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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, March 5, 2004. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, Section A2004_017_001_001, TRT: 0:29:17 ?

Nan Arrington Peete talks about her favorites, her family history and how her parents met in Idlewild, Michigan. Her mother, Phoebe Nan Clanton Arrington, was born on December 8, 1904 in Helena, Arkansas to Olive Bird Clanton and Solomon Trumbull Clanton. Arrington was raised in Chicago and attended Wendell Phillips High School and Hyde Park High School before graduating from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois around 1918 and becoming an elementary school teacher for forty-three years. Peete's father, Maurice Daniel Arrington, was born in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1896 to Florence Arrington and Robert Arrington. Arrington was the first African American to graduate with an engineering degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1926. Her maternal grandmother, Olive Bird Clanton was involved in the founding of the Idlewild, an all black resort town in Michigan. Peete talks about the strong political activism of her mother's family and how that affected her own upbringing.

Women priests--Interviews.

African American Episcopalians--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, Section A2004_017_001_002, TRT: 0:29:38 ?

Nan Arrington Peete talks about growing up with her grandmother, Olive Bird Clanton. She also reflects on when her mother, Phoebe Nan Clanton Arrington, served as her first grade teacher. Peete recalls a family trip to Mexico and visiting her father's family in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Peete grew up at 3250 South Park, Chicago, Illinois next to an apartment building owned by her grandmother, Olive Bird Clanton, and near her aunts and uncles. She describes the Thanksgiving dinners at her mother's house before moving to Los Angeles, California. She reflects on her time in private school at the University of Chicago Laboratory School as her first time in a predominantly white environment. Peete describes her decision to attend church at eight years of age, and on her different careers before joining the Episcopal Priesthood.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, Section A2004_017_001_003, TRT: 0:29:37 ?

Nan Arrington Peete talks about receiving her degrees in economics from Occidental College, California in 1975 and her M.A. degree in management from the University of Redlands, California in 1978. She marched with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Chicago, Illinois and picketed the

Democratic Convention in 1968. Peete reflects on the racism that was present in Chicago during the 1960s and 1970s. After enrolling in seminary school part-time at the Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, California for two years, she attended General Theological Seminary in New York City full-time, graduating in 1984. Peete received an honorary degree at Seabury Western Seminary in Evanston, Illinois as the first woman to speak at the Lambeth Conference of Bishops in Canterbury, England on the Ordination of Women in 1988.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, Section A2004_017_001_004, TRT: 0:25:56 ?

Nan Arrington Peete reflects on the moment she delivered her speech at the Lambeth Conference of Bishops in Canterbury, England in 1988. Peete goes on to explain how the Anglican Church works, her current title and her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She concludes by reflecting upon her legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Nan Arrington Peete, Section A2004_017_001_005, TRT: 0:24:53 ?

Nan Arrington Peete narrates her photographs.