

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moore, Jerry, 1918-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr.,
Dates:	April 27, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:19:00).
Abstract:	Association chief executive, city council member, and pastor Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. (1918 - 2017) was the former pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and a former city council member for the City of Washington, D.C. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 27, 2007, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_171
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Religious leader Jerry Alexander Moore, Jr. was born on June 12, 1918, in Minden, Louisiana, to Mae Dee Moore and Jerry Alexander Moore, Sr. Moore graduated from high school at Webster Parrish Training School in 1936 before receiving his B.A. degree from Morehouse College in 1940. Moore then received his B.D. degree from Howard University in 1943, the same year the NAACP sponsored student sit-ins on Howard University's campus.

In 1946, Moore became the pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. In 1957, Moore earned his M.A. degree from Howard University, and one year later became the University's Baptist chaplain. In 1969, Moore temporarily left the ministry to become a city council member in Washington, D.C., where he served until 1984. During Moore's term, he served as "Member-At-Large" for the council seat alongside District of Columbia Commissioner Walter E. Washington, Vice Chairman Sterling Tucker and Chairman Gilbert Hahn, Jr.

Moore co-founded the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) in 1971. This organization was created to provide a forum for senior level minority professionals in the transportation industry. After Moore left the Washington, D.C. City Council in 1984, he became the chaplain for the D.C. Detention Facility, an inmate detention center that offers programs in HIV/AIDS prevention, education and intervention services, individual and group counseling services, religious services, among other life skills development and religious skills.

In 1985, Moore became the executive secretary for the Home Mission Board at the National Baptist Convention (NBC) until 1997. During his time at NBC, he was nominated to be the United States Ambassador to Lesotho, a position previously held by Robert M. Smalley. In 1994, Moore ended his fifty year tenure as pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church.

Moore received numerous civic awards throughout his career including the Minority Transportation Officials' Award, the Washington Area Contractors Award, the Capital City Rep Club Lincoln Award, and the NAACP service award.

Moore passed away on December 19, 2017 at age 99.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. was conducted by Janet Sims-Wood on April 27, 2007, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Association chief executive, city council member, and pastor Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. (1918 - 2017) was the former pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and a former city council member for the City of Washington, D.C.

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:

Moore, Jerry, 1918-

Sims-Wood, Janet (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moore, Jerry, 1918---Interviews

African American clergy--Interviews

African American civic leaders--Interviews

City council members--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Washington (D.C.)

Nineteenth Street Baptist Church (Washington, D.C.)

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

Occupations:

City Council Member

Pastor

Association Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

PoliticalMakers|ReligionMakers|CivicMakers

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 Jerry A. Moore, Jr., April 27, 2007. 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).

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 Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_001, TRT: 0:29:00 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. was born on June 12, 1918 in Minden, Louisiana to Jerry A. Moore, Sr. and Mae Dee Abner Moore. His maternal grandparents, David Abner and Molly Abner, were former slaves, and owned a 300-acre farm in Marshall, Texas. His mother attended Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical

College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His paternal grandparents, Henry Moore and Catherine Moore, were also former slaves, and had a farm in Heflin, Louisiana. His father studied theology at Bishop College in Marshall, Texas, where his parents met and married. They moved to Minden, Louisiana, where his father pastored three churches, and supervised the all-black schools. Moore grew up in segregated Minden; where, at a young age, he witnessed a group of whites attack a black man in a store. He often accompanied his mother, a teacher, to work; and, upon enrolling at the Webster Parish Training School for Negroes at six years old, could already read and write. Moore also describes his four siblings.

African American clergy--Interviews.

African American civic leaders--Interviews.

City council members--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_002, TRT: 0:29:20 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. began his education at Webster Parish Training School for Negroes in Minden, Louisiana, where he was encouraged by his math teacher, Miss Calvin. He attended St. Rest Baptist Church, and was active with the Baptist Training Union under the mentorship of its director, Will Holmes. At fourteen years old, Moore enrolled at the Minden Union School, where he excelled in reading and history. He learned about Booker T. Washington and Mary McLeod Bethune from his teacher, Tessie McGee, who taught black history using Carter G. Woodson's books. Moore sang in the school choir, and joined the thrift club, where he learned to save the money he earned from selling seeds and newspapers. After graduation, Moore matriculated at Dillard University in New Orleans; but, on his first day, came in conflict with college president William Stuart Nelson, and left the school. Moore also describes the exploitation of illiterate black farmers by white merchants in Minden.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_003, TRT: 0:29:10 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. attended Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He aspired to become an artist, and

majored in English with a focus in drama. A music minor, he studied voice under Willis Laurence James; was the principal soloist in the Morehouse College Glee Club; and played in the band and orchestra. To pay for his education, he performed at parties, washed the dormitory windows and served as a butler and chauffeur for the college's president, Charles Dubois Hubert. Moore graduated in 1940, and was accepted to the Julliard School of Music, but remained in Atlanta to work as a painter instead. During that time, he met the new college president, Benjamin Mays, who secured a scholarship for him to the Howard University School of Divinity. There, Moore was taught by Howard Thurman and James Farmer, Sr., and worked as an elevator operator to fund his studies. He later became a student minister at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. Moore also recalls skin color and class bias at Howard University.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_004, TRT: 0:28:50 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. graduated from the Howard University School of Divinity, and was hired as the program director for the United Service Organizations in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he organized entertainment for soldiers at Camp Harahan. He later became a YMCA secretary, and established Hi-Y clubs in the public schools. Then, he served as a counselor to soldiers at the New Orleans Port of Embarkation, where he advocated for integration, and resigned in protest after being told to wait until the end of World War II. In 1944, Moore returned to Washington, D.C. as an assistant pastor at the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church. After Pastor Walter Henderson Brooks' death in 1946, Moore became the head pastor. At the church, he instituted Vacation Bible School and the Camp Mo-Tyce youth program. His congregation included bandleader Duke Ellington's wife, Edna Thompson; attorney William Houston; and school principal Martha Winston. Moore also describes family, including his wife, Ettyce Hill Moore.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_005, TRT: 0:29:50 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. obtained a master's degree

in 1957 from the Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C., and later became the school's Baptist chaplain. He also taught at Washington Baptist Seminary from 1964. Moore took part in a sit-in led by activists William H. Jernagin and Mary Church Terrell at Thompson's Restaurant; and, after the riots following Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968, spoke at a meeting held by activist Stokely Carmichael, whose tactics Moore contested. In Washington, D.C., Moore served on the Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board. Frustrated at the exclusion of African Americans from the transportation industry, Moore founded the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials in 1971. Three years later, he was elected to the city council of Washington, D.C. Moore also recalls Walter Washington's appointment as mayor-commissioner, and the March on Washington.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_006, TRT: 0:28:50 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. was appointed to the Washington, D.C. city council by President Richard Nixon in 1969. After limited home rule was established, he was elected to the council as a member-at-large in 1974, and oversaw the budget for the D.C. Department of Public Works. He continued to serve as the pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church; and, in 1975, facilitated the church's move from 19th Street to 16th Street to escape rising rental costs. In 1976, as a Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board member, Moore supervised the construction of the first line of the Metro rapid transit system. In 1984, he left the Washington, D.C. city council; and, in 1985, served as executive secretary of the Home Mission Board for the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., where he wrote the church literature on economic empowerment, and headed national disaster relief efforts. In 1996, Moore retired from Nineteenth Street Baptist Church after fifty years as its pastor.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr., Section A2007_171_001_007, TRT: 0:24:00 2007/04/27

Reverend Jerry A. Moore, Jr. obtained a Ph.D. degree in family counseling from La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After his retirement from the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in 1996, he taught business administration with an emphasis on human relations and ethics at the Howard University School of Divinity and Southeastern University in Washington, D.C. He also travelled to countries like Japan, Hong Kong, Cambodia and Denmark as a committee member for the Baptist World Alliance. Moore reflects upon the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007, as well as his life and career. He describes his hopes and concerns for the African American community, his plans for the future and how he would like to be remembered. Moore also reflects upon his legacy, and his message to future generations. He concludes the interview by narrating his photographs.