

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Jim Holley

PERSON

Holley, Jim, 1943-

**Alternative Names:** Reverend Dr. Jim Holley;

**Life Dates:** December 5, 1943-

**Place of Birth:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**Residence:** Detroit, MI

**Work:** Detroit, MI

**Occupations:** Religious Leader

## Biographical Note

Religious leader Reverend Dr. Jim Holley was born on December 5, 1943, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Effie Mae King Holley and Charles James Holley, Sr. Holley graduated with his B.S. degree in 1965 and his M.S. degree in international relations in 1968, both from Tennessee State University. He went on to receive his B.Div. and M.Div. degrees in Old Testament from Chicago Theological Seminary, and then his Ph.D. degree in higher education from Wayne State University in 1978. He later received his D.Min. degree in economic development from Drew University in 1999.

In 1972, Holley became pastor of Detroit, Michigan's Historic Little Rock Baptist Church. In addition to his role as pastor, he was named president and chief executive officer of Cognos Advertising Agency in 1988, and has served as dean of the Ashland Theological Seminary, Detroit police commissioner, president of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc., and president and chief executive officer of Country Preacher Foods, Inc. He also went on to establish and chair the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1997. Holley was appointed to the board of directors of the Detroit Police Commission in 2018, where he has served as chair. Holley retired as senior pastor of the Historic Little Rock Baptist Church in 2022.

As a community leader in Detroit, Holley has acquired the St. Regis Hotel, the Little Rock Pharmacy, the Family Life Center, the Little Rock Health Care Home, Rock Plaza mall, and an education complex for high school dropouts. He is also the author of numerous spiritually-focused books, including the Handbook for Brotherhood Organizations (1990); Manual for Brotherhood Organizations (1990); The Mission, The

Minister, The Ministry (1990); A Guide to Successful Preaching & Pastoring (1992); The Drama of Human Suffering (1992); The Buck Stops Here (1994); Jesus, This is Jimmy (1994); The Spirit Speaks: Daily Spiritual Motivation for Successful African Americans (1997); Creating a Can Do Attitude in a Can't Do Atmosphere (2000); and When the Vision is Larger Than the Budget (2006).

Holley was named one of the top five ministers in Michigan by the Detroit Free Press and Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News in 1990. He has been recognized by Crain's Business Magazine as one of the foremost voices in Detroit, and was honored at the 2010 Trumpet Awards.

Reverend Dr. Jim Holley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 24, 2014, and March 16, 2022.

## Related Entries

**Tennessee State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.S. Degree**

**Tennessee State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S. Degree**

**Chicago Theological Seminary** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**B.Div.**

**Chicago Theological Seminary** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.Div.**

**Wayne State University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Ph.D.**

**Drew University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**D.Min.**

**Country Preacher Foods, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1993 to ?]

**President and CEO**

**Detroit Police Commission** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Police Commissioner (Mayoral Appointee)**

**Ashland Theological Seminary** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Dean**

**Self-employed** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Author**

**Cognos Advertising Agency** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to ?]

**President and CEO**

**Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1997 to ?]

**Founder and Chairman**

**Historic Little Rock Baptist Church** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 19720609 to 2022]

**Pastor**

**Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit & Vicinity, Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**President**

**Detroit Police Commission** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Chair of the Board**

**Payne Pulliam Trade School** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Detroit PUSH** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Detroit-Wayne County Criminal Justice System** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**YMCA-East** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Greater Opportunity Center Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Black Unity Fund** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Detroit Public Schools** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Evergreen Children Center** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**J. Allen Caldwell Baptist Church** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Metropolitan Orchestra** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**NAACP** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**

**Oral Roberts University** [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

**Board**