

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Cecil Williams

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Williams, Cecil, 1929-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams,
Dates:	December 1, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:42:35).
Abstract:	Religious leader Reverend Cecil Williams (1929-) was a pastor at the Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, California for more than forty years. He was also the founder and CEO of the Glide Foundation. Williams was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 1, 2017, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_211
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Religious leader Reverend Cecil Williams was born on September 22, 1929 in San Angelo, Texas. Williams earned his B.A. degree in sociology from Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas in 1952, and graduated from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas in 1956, where he was among the first five African Americans to graduate from Perkins School of Theology.

He served as a pastor in Hobbs, New Mexico, and in Kansas City, Missouri until 1963, and accepted a position as pastor at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, California. In 1964, Williams, Phyllis Lyon, and Del Martin founded the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. In addition to providing the LGBTQ community a safe place at Glide, Williams protested the de facto segregation of San Francisco public schools, hosted events for the Black Panther Party, supported Angela Davis by hosting “Free Angela Davis” rallies, and demanded investigations of police brutality against African Americans in the Bay Area. He created Citizens Alert, a community group investigating allegations of police intimidation and brutality against people of color and the gay community. Williams grew the congregation to 10,000 members and in 2000, he retired as pastor at Glide Memorial, but remained central to church operations as the Minister of Liberation and CEO of the Glide Foundation.

At the request of Coretta Scott King, Williams became the chairman of the Northern California Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee in 1986. In 2008, Williams was the recipient of the National Caring Award presented by the Caring Institute in Washington, D.C. In August 2013, the intersection where Glide Memorial Church was renamed “Rev. Cecil Williams Way” in his honor. Williams and wife, Janice Mirikitani, appeared as extras in the 2006 film *The Pursuit of Happyness* and he was also featured in the PBS documentary series *This Far by Faith*. Williams authored two books; *I’m Alive: An Autobiography* published in 1980, and collaborated with his wife to publish *Beyond the Possible* in 2013.

Williams has two children from his first marriage, Albert and Kim.

Revered Cecil Williams was interviewed by *TheHistoryMakers* on December 1, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Cecil Williams was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 1, 2017, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Religious leader Reverend Cecil Williams (1929-) was a pastor at the Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco, California for more than forty years. He was also the founder and CEO of the Glide Foundation.

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:

Williams, Cecil, 1929-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Williams, Cecil, 1929- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Religious Leader

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 Cecil Williams, December 1, 2017. 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 Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_001, TRT: 1:30:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_002, TRT: 2:30:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_003, TRT:

3:30:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_004, TRT:
4:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_005, TRT:
5:31:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Cecil Williams, Section A2017_211_001_006, TRT:
6:10:25 ?