

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr.

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Cousin, Philip Robert, 1933-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr.,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 6, 2021
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2021
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:41:28).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr. (1933 - ) served as president of Kittrell College and of the National Council of Churches and as the 96th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Cousin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 6, 2021, in Bolingbrook, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2021_002
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr., was born on March 26, 1933, in Pittston, Pennsylvania, to Mary Lena (Johns) Cousin and Reverend Sylvester Alvin Cousin. He graduated from Roosevelt High School in West Palm Beach, Florida, and went on to receive his B.A. degree in philosophy and English from Central State University, in Wilberforce, Ohio, in 1953, his Master of Divinity degree from the Boston University School of Theology, in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1956, and his Doctor of Ministry degree as an MLK Fellow in black church studies from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, in Rochester, New York, in 1975. He also studied at the Boston University School of Education (now Boston University Wheelock College of Education and Human Development) and the Educational Administration Program at the University of Texas at Austin.

In 1956, Cousin joined as pastor St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in Danville, Virginia. In 1958, he was reassigned to Trinity AME Church in Norfolk, Virginia. He became president of Kittrell College, in Kittrell, North Carolina, in 1960, serving until 1965, when he became pastor of St. Joseph AME Church in Durham, North Carolina. In 1967, he established a curriculum for black church studies at Duke University Divinity School and began lecturing at Southeastern Theological Seminary, in Wake Forest, North Carolina, and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was consecrated the 96th bishop of the AME Church in 1976, serving the Ninth, Eleventh, First, and Fourth Episcopal Districts until his retirement, in 2008. In 1982, he was appointed first vice president of the National Council of Churches, becoming president the following year and serving until 1988, and reading the Protestant position paper at a 1987 meeting with Pope John Paul II. On November 4, 2008, he led the opening prayer for Barack Obama's presidential election victory speech, in Chicago, Illinois. He also has pastored Allen Temple AME Church in Riviera Beach, Florida.

Cousin has served as a second lieutenant, infantry (reserves), in the U.S. Armed Services; a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, in Chicago, Illinois; a trustee of Lincoln Hospital, in Durham, North Carolina; chairman of the Durham Human Relations Commission; a member of the Durham County Board of Social

Services and of the Durham County Board of Education; and a member of the national board of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Cousin has received honorary doctorates from Kittrell College and from Payne Theological Seminary, in Wilberforce, Ohio, among other institutions. He also has been the recipient of several honors and awards, including the Kellogg Fellowship in Junior College Administration and the Keeper of the Flame award. He has twice been named one of the “100 Most Influential Black Americans” by Ebony magazine.

Cousin and his wife, Margaret Joan (Grier) Cousin, live in Bolingbrook, Illinois. They have five sons: Philip, Jr., Steven, David, Michael, and Joseph, all of whom serve as ministers in the AME Church.

Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Jr., was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 6, 2021.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 6, 2021, in Bolingbrook, Illinois, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr. (1933 - ) served as president of Kittrell College and of the National Council of Churches and as the 96th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Cousin, Philip Robert, 1933-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Cousin, Philip Robert, 1933---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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African Methodist Episcopal Church

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## Occupations:

Bishop

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ReligionMakers

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## 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 Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., October 6, 2021. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_007, TRT: 7:35:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Philip R. Cousin, Sr., Section A2021\_002\_001\_008, TRT: 8:11:23 ?