

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop Frederick C. James

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	James, Frederick Calhoun, 1922-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James,
Dates:	November 11, 2021
Bulk Dates:	2021
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:33:00).
Abstract:	Bishop Frederick C. James (1922 -) was elected the 93rd Bishop of the AME Church in 1972, where he served the 18th, 15th, 12th, 7th, and 2nd Episcopal Districts until his retirement in 1996. He also served as the first director of social action of the AME Church beginning in 1960. James was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 11, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2021_013
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Bishop Frederick C. James was born on April 7, 1922, in Prosperity, South Carolina, to Rosa Lee Gray and Edward James. James received his A.A. degree in 1941 from Bettis Junior College, in Trenton, South Carolina, his B.A. degree in history and English in 1943 from Allen University, in Columbia, South Carolina, and his M.Div. degree in 1947 from the Howard University School of Divinity, in Washington, D.C. He also attended Dickerson Theological Seminary, in Columbia, South Carolina, and Union Theological Seminary, in New York, New York.

James became pastor of Friendship AME Church in 1945 and of Bishop Memorial AME Church in 1946, both in Columbia, South Carolina, and of Wayman AME Church, in Winnsboro, South Carolina, in 1947. In 1949, James became dean of Dickerson Theological Seminary, and, in 1950, pastor of Chappelle Memorial AME Church in Columbia. In 1953, James moved to Sumter, South Carolina, to assume the pastorship of Mt. Pisgah AME Church. In 1960, James was elected director of social action of the AME Church. In 1962, James helped organize and chaired the Sumter Citizens Committee. In 1963, he became president of the Effective Sumter Movement. In 1972, James was elected the 93rd Bishop of the AME Church. He served the 18th and 15th Episcopal Districts from 1972 to 1976, the 12th from 1976 to 1984, the 7th from 1984 to 1992, and the 2nd from 1993 to 1996. James led Shorter College, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to full accreditation in 1981 and Allen University to full accreditation in 1992. That same year, he served as Ecumenical Bishop and Chaplaincy Endorsement Officer of the AME Church. James retired in 1996.

James has served as chair of Allen University and of the Howard Junior High School Center in Prosperity, South Carolina, and as a member of the Columbia Housing Authority. He was a member of the delegation to attend the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela in 1994. James is a former member of the White House Advisory Board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and of the U.S. State Department's Advisory Board on Religious Freedom and served as National Vice President of the Interfaith Alliance. James is a life

member of the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and is a 33 degree Mason. James also served on the board of directors at the National Bank of South Carolina and as a member of the Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

James holds an honorary doctorate of humanities from Monrovia College, in Liberia. James received the Order of the Palmetto in 2003 and the Leon A. Love Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation and Columbia SC 63: Our Story Matters in 2020. James has been inducted into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame and the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame

James lives in Columbia, South Carolina, where he resided with his late wife, Theresa Gregg.

Bishop Frederick C. James was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 11, 2021.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bishop Frederick C. James was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 11, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Bishop Frederick C. James (1922 -) was elected the 93rd Bishop of the AME Church in 1972, where he served the 18th, 15th, 12th, 7th, and 2nd Episcopal Districts until his retirement in 1996. He also served as the first director of social action of the AME Church beginning in 1960.

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:

James, Frederick Calhoun, 1922-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
James, Frederick Calhoun, 1922---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Occupations:

Bishop

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 Bishop Frederick C. James, November 11, 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).

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 Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_001, TRT: 1:30:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_002, TRT: 2:32:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_003, TRT: 3:29:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_004, TRT: 4:32:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_005, TRT: 5:31:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_006, TRT: 6:28:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Bishop Frederick C. James, Section A2021_013_001_007, TRT: 7:28:22 ?