

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sampson, Albert Richard, 1938-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson,
Dates:	August 19, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:27:03).
Abstract:	Civil rights activist and pastor Reverend Albert Richard Sampson (1938 -) was ordained by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and then worked with Rev. James Bevel to help organize Resurrection City for Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign. Rev. Sampson became pastor of Fernwood United Methodist Church in Chicago in 1975. An activist minister, Sampson is a consultant on the Black Heritage Bible. Sampson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 19, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_159
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Activist and civil rights minister Reverend Albert "Al" Sampson was born on November 27, 1938, in Everett, Massachusetts, and graduated from Everett High School in 1956. He won the high school oratorical contest his senior year. Called to the ministry, Sampson attended Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, receiving a B.A. in 1963. Sampson earned a masters degree in cultural studies from Governors State University in 1973 and a masters of divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1977.

While at Shaw, Sampson was president of the Shaw Student Body and the campus, city and state chapters of the NAACP. He was arrested during Raleigh's student sit-ins and was selected by his fellow students to introduce the first public accommodations bill in North Carolina history. Rev. Sampson became involved with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1962 and served as campaign manager for Leroy Johnson, Georgia's first black State Senator. This led indirectly to Sampson being ordained by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Ebenezer Baptist Church in 1966. He was selected to study organizing and later worked with Rev. James Bevel to help organize Resurrection City for Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign.

Rev. Sampson became pastor of Fernwood United Methodist Church in Chicago in 1975, where he continues today. He played an important role in the campaign of the late Mayor Harold Washington as a member of the Task Force for Black Political Empowerment. Sampson is president of the National Black Farmers Harvest and Business Trade Cooperative and serves on numerous boards and organizations that stress the economic development of the black community. He served as a scholar consultant for the Black Heritage Bible and is currently the president of the Metropolitan Council of Black Churches in Chicago.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson was conducted by Adele Hodge on August 19, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Civil rights activist and pastor Reverend Albert Richard Sampson (1938 -) was ordained by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and then worked with Rev. James Bevel to help organize Resurrection City for Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign. Rev. Sampson became pastor of Fernwood United Methodist Church in Chicago in 1975. An activist minister, Sampson is a consultant on the Black Heritage Bible.

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:

Sampson, Albert Richard, 1938-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Sampson, Albert Richard, 1938---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Civil Rights Activist

Pastor

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers|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 Albert Richard Sampson, August 19, 2002. 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 Albert Richard Sampson, Section
A2002_159_001_001, TRT: 0:30:12 ?

Reverend Al Sampson considers his five 'favorites.' An adopted child from Massachusetts, Al Sampson discusses his family life. He remembers visits to the

South and explains his decision to attend Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sampson reviews his involvement with a number of social justice organizations during his college years. He also reviews both the mentors and notable figures who influenced him early on. He discusses his decision to attend Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia and he reviews his professional affiliations following the completion of his seminary education.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson, Section
A2002_159_001_002, TRT: 0:29:53 ?

Al Sampson expresses his admiration for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He talks about experiences they shared together and lessons he learned from their relationship. Then, he discusses strategies for social change during the Civil Rights Movement. Sampson describes the impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision and states how the Civil Rights Movement served its purpose. Al Sampson emphasizes an international and multicultural approach to social change.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson, Section
A2002_159_001_003, TRT: 0:30:40 ?

Al Sampson explains a dual approach to organizing for social change. After talking about how he combined Saul Alinsky's philosophy with grassroots strategies, he describes the results of his approach to organizing for social change. Sampson tells about the black church's potential for social change and cites examples of how his church is portraying a positive image. He compares past African American leaders' traits with those he sees today and considers how an evolution needs to take place for the future generations. Sampson once again remembers his childhood and describes how he broke out of some stereotypes of his neighborhood. Sampson discusses the emphasis on character throughout his life and how he was introduced to the concept in elementary school.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson, Section
A2002_159_001_004, TRT: 0:30:24 ?

Al Sampson remembers influential figures with whom he's worked throughout his life. He talks about his marriage and moving to Chicago, Illinois. Next, when asked about his greatest accomplishment he speaks about maintaining his integrity and cites examples of how he accomplished this. After describing how he'd like to be remembered and his future plans Al Sampson expresses his admiration for Minister Louis Farrakhan. He states his appreciation of the HistoryMakers process before talking about sexism in the Civil Rights Movement. Al Sampson discusses the media's response to his leadership.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Albert Richard Sampson, Section
A2002_159_001_005, TRT: 0:25:54 ?

Al Sampson continues his thoughts on the effects of the media on black leadership. He then discusses the various issues that civil rights activists had to endure during their liberation struggles. Citing Angela Davis as an example, Sampson states his opinion on women's roles in leadership. Al Sampson discusses Chicago politics and economics in the 1980s and speaks in detail about Harold Washington's contributions and career.