

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Kenneth Smith, Sr.

PERSON

Smith, Kenneth B.

Alternative Names: The Honorable Kenneth Smith, Sr.;

Life Dates: February 19, 1931-January 21, 2008

Place of Birth: Montclair, New Jersey, USA

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: University President

Biographical Note

The Reverend Dr. Kenneth B. Smith, Sr. was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on February 19, 1931. He was very active in social issues affecting the greater Chicago area.

Smith completed his undergraduate degree at Virginia Union University in 1953. He earned his M.A. degree from Drew University in 1954 and a degree in divinity and ministry from the Bethany Theological Seminary in 1960.

As a minister, Smith guided the congregations at the Congregational Church of Park Manor, Trinity United Church of Christ and the Church of the Good Shepherd. Smith retired as the president of the Chicago Theological Seminary. Over the years, he was involved with the Community Renewal Society.

Active in the community, Smith served as the chairman of the Chicago Community Trust, the president of the Chicago Board of Education, treasurer of the United Way of Chicago and a trustee of DePaul University. Smith also served on the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Center for the Humanities.

Smith passed away on January 21, 2008 at the age of 76.

Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 9, 2000.

Related Entries

Trinity United Church of Christ [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2007 to 2010]

Minister

Church of the Good Shephere [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1984]

Minister

Congregational Church of Park Manor [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1957 to 1961]

Minister

Chicago Theological Seminary [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 2000]

President