

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart

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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>	Roddy-Hart, Marion, 1937-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 16, 2002
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2002
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:45:40).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Pastor Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart (1937 - ) is the pastor at Albright Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania. Roddy-Hart was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 16, 2002, in State College, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2002_229
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

The Reverend Marion J. Roddy-Hart was born in Chicago. The daughter of a nurse and a manufacturer and one of seven children, Roddy-Hart attended DuSable High School, graduating in 1950. Later, she attended Chicago State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in 1970. After earning some post-graduate credits at the University of Illinois, Roddy-Hart earned a master's degree from Lancaster Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1995.

Roddy-Hart spent many of her early years working in Chicago. She started her career performing administrative work with the City Colleges of Chicago. From there, she joined the City of Chicago Department of Health, also in an administrative role. After earning her M.A. from Lancaster, Roddy-Hart became a student pastor, where she has served since 1998. Since then, she has also become the pastor of the Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania. Roddy-Hart has also been active with the NAACP for more than twenty years. She is married to Morris E. Hart.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 16, 2002, in State College, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Pastor Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart (1937 - ) is the pastor at Albright Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania.

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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:

Roddy-Hart, Marion, 1937-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Roddy-Hart, Marion, 1937---Interviews

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African American clergy.

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African American women clergy--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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### Occupations:

Pastor

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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 Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart, December 16, 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).

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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 Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002\_229\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:01 ?

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart was born on September 12, 1937 to James T. Wall and Annie May Wall in Chicago, Illinois. James T. Wall was born around 1880 in Barbados and his father was Josiah T. Walls, who was one of the first African American U.S. Congressman in 1871. James T. Wall was a chemist and businessman who owned Offel Manufacturing and was the president of Burr Oaks Cemetery and the Southside Bank and Trust Company before losing most of his money in Chicago's 1933 World's Fair. Annie May Wall was born in Jackson, Mississippi and worked as a nurse. After James Wall died in the mid-1940s, she remarried to a man named Ben Dean. Roddy-Hart's great-grandmother, Hattie Phillips, was a teacher at Tougaloo College and her great-grandfather founded Whitfield Mill Road in Jackson. Roddy-Hart and her five siblings were raised in Bronzeville in Chicago. While in high school, Roddy-Hart suffered from an illness that was miraculously cured. [Neither her relation

to Walls nor her father's jobs can be confirmed].

Walls, Josiah T. (Josiah Thomas), 1842 – 1905

African American families--Death.

African American neighborhoods--Illinois--Chicago--South Side

African Americans--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002\_229\_001\_002,  
TRT: 0:29:00 ?

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart talks about her education, her career in health education, and her brother. When she was sixteen or seventeen, Roddy-Hart developed a debilitating illness that prevented her from graduating from DuSable High School until 1955. She took classes intermittently at Loop Junior College and Wilson Junior College and worked as a stenographer and health educator for the Chicago Health Department in conjunction with the U.S. Public Health Service. Roddy-Hart became the administrative assistant to Samuel Huffman, president of Malcolm X College in Chicago, Illinois and worked in the nursing department at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois. Roddy-Hart's brother, Frederick P. Hall, was the editor and publisher of the Chicago Courier and active in Chicago political life as an aide to Mayor Richard J. Daley before his death in 1973. In 1975, Roddy-Hart began attending HistoryMaker Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr.'s Trinity United Church of God.

DuSable High School

Dyett, Walter, 1901-1969

Loop College (Chicago, Ill.)

Chicago City Junior College.

African American churches--Illinois--Chicago.

African American women college administrators.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002\_229\_001\_003,  
TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart describes her career as a minister. Roddy-Hart joined Trinity United Church of Christ after meeting HistoryMaker Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr. in 1975 at a funeral. Impressed by the church and Dr. Wright's emphasis on teaching, Roddy-Hart became a deacon and was given the opportunity to preach, where she felt the call to become a minister. On November 27, 1987, Roddy-Hart married Morris E. Hart in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She earned her M.A. degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1995 and attended Penbrook United Church of Christ in Harrisburg, where she was mentored by Robert S. Stoudt. She also was an associate pastor at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Harrisburg and interned at Faith United Church of Christ in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania before becoming a minister at Albright-Bethune United Methodist Church in State College, Pennsylvania in 2001. Roddy-Hart describes her church community and the differences between State College and Chicago, Illinois.

African American churches--Illinois--Chicago.

Trinity United Church of Christ (Chicago, Illinois).

Wright, Jeremiah A., Jr

United Church of Christ--Relations.

African American women clergy--Training of.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart, Section A2002\_229\_001\_004,  
TRT: 0:18:29 ?

Reverend Marion Roddy-Hart shares her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She shares her opinions on the growing trend of megachurches and how they function like supermarkets rather than connected communities. She describes the role of women in ministry, and how they often work as chaplains in universities, hospitals, and prisons after seminary because often are not asked to become church pastors. Roddy-Hart reflects upon her legacy and her family. Roddy-Hart ends the interview by narrating her photographs.

Big churches.

African American women clergy.

African American families.

African American women clergy--Interviews.