

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with James H. Cone

PERSON

Cone, James H.

Alternative Names: James H. Cone; Professor James H. Cone;

Life Dates: August 5, 1938-April 28, 2018

Place of Birth: Fordyce, Arkansas, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Theologian

Biographical Note

Theologian James Hal Cone was born on August 5, 1938 in Fordyce, Arkansas. With his parents' teachings on faith and his strong understanding of the value of an education, Cone began his formal training with a diploma from Ouachita County Training High School in 1954. That same year, he received his call to the ministry and became a pastor at age sixteen. After receiving his B.A. degree from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1958, he attended Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois where he received his B.D. degree in 1961. Continuing his studies, Cone received both his M.A. degree in 1963 and his Ph.D. in systematic theology in 1965 from Northwestern University.

Armed with a strong divinity education and serving as an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Cone began his professional career as a professor at Philander Smith College, in 1966. He then taught at Adrian College in Michigan. Beginning in 1970, Cone joined the faculty of Union Theological Seminary in New York, where in 1977, he was awarded the distinguished Charles A. Briggs Chair in Systematic Theology. Cone also created a systematic Black theology. Cone created a Christian theology that was based on African American experience, history, and culture.

Among his numerous books are *Black Theology and Black Power* (1969), *A Black Theology of Liberation* (1970), *For My People: Black Theology and the Black Church* (1984), *Martin & Malcolm & America: A Dream or Nightmare* (1992), and *Speaking the Truth: Ecumenism, Liberation and Black Theology* (1999).

Cone passed away on April 28, 2018.

Related Entries

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.D.

Philander Smith College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Northwestern University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A. and Ph.D.

Philander Smith College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1964 to 1966]

Professor

Adrian College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to 1969]

Professor of Theology

Union Theological Seminary [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1969 to ?]

Professor of Theology

African Methodist Episcopal Church [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Minister

American Academy of Religion [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Society for the Study of Black Religion [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians (EATWOT) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]