

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Sherman G. Hicks

PERSON

Hicks, Sherman Gregory, 1946-

Alternative Names: Reverend Dr. Sherman G. Hicks;

Life Dates: June 22, 1946-

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, New York, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Bishop

Biographical Note

Reverend Dr. Sherman G. Hicks was born on June 22, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York, to Sarah Mae (Rollins) and Charles Hicks, Sr. He received his B.A. degree in political science in 1968 from Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio, and his M.Div. degree in 1973 from Hamma School of Theology, in Springfield, Ohio (now Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University, in Columbus, Ohio). He also attended the University at Buffalo School of Law.

Hicks became pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Buffalo, New York, in 1973 and co-pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in East Orange, New Jersey, in 1977. In 1979, he was assigned assistant to the bishop of the Illinois Synod of the Lutheran Church in America. In 1988, Hicks was elected bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). From 1996 to 2003, he served as senior pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. In 2003, he became the mission director and coordinator of the African American/Black Outreach Strategy in the Division for Outreach of the ELCA. In 2005, Hicks was elected executive director of Multicultural Ministries of the ELCA, from which he retired in 2014. He also served as an adjunct faculty member at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Gettysburg Seminary), in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and as mission director for the ELCA Delaware-Maryland Synod and ELCA Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod.

Hicks has served as president of the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Council of Religious Leaders, and the AIDS National Interfaith Network, as president of the board of Third World Social Services, as a trustee of Carthage College, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and on the boards of the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, the Mission Resource Institute, the Leadership Council of the Metropolitan Open Community,

Lutheran Housing Services, Lutheran Services in America, National Mosaic Allied Voice, Bethphage Mission, Wartburg College, and as a member of the National AIDS Fund and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Hicks was named one of the “Outstanding Young Men in America” by the United States Junior Chamber, received an alumni citation from Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio, and was an honoree for the religion award at the tenth American Black Achievement Awards. Hicks has received honorary doctorates of divinity from Carthage College, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Elmhurst College (now Elmhurst University), in Elmhurst, Illinois, and Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio.

Hicks lives in Chicago, Illinois, and was married to Anna (Ann) Marie (Peck) Hicks. They have three children: Christopher Hicks, Geoffrey Hicks, and Andrea Hicks-Jones.

Reverend Dr. Sherman G. Hicks was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on October 4, 2021.

Related Entries

Wittenberg University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.Div.

P.S. 25 [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Wyandanch Union Free School District [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Wyandanch Memorial High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

University at Buffalo School of Law [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Concordia Lutheran Church [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to 1977]

Pastor

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to 1979]

Co-pastor

Illinois Synod of the Lutheran Church in America [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1987]

Assistant to the Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Delaware-Maryland Synod [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Mission Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Mission Director

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Metropolitan Chicago Synod [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1988 to 1995]

Bishop

First Trinity Lutheran Church [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1996 to 2003]

Senior Pastor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2003 to 2005]

**Mission Director and Coordinator of the African American/Black Outreach
Strategy, Division for Outreach**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2006 to 2014]

Executive Director of the Multicultural Ministries Program Unit

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Gettysburg Seminary) [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from ? to ?]

Adjunct Professor

Interfaith Council for the Homeless [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President

Carthage College [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Trustee

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Council of Religious Leaders [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President

AIDS National Interfaith Network [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

President

National AIDS Fund [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

Third World Social Services [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

President of the Board

Mission Resource Institute [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Leadership Council of the Metropolitan Open Community [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Lutheran Housing Services [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Lutheran Services in America [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Greater Chicago Food Depository [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Mosaic Allied Voices [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Bethphage Mission [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Wartburg College [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board of Regents and the Diversity National Advisory Board

South Loop Campus Ministry [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Bethel New Life [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member of the Board

Advocate's Mission and Spiritual Care Committee [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Lifeline Partnership [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]