

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bishop John Hurst Adams

PERSON

Adams, John Hurst, 1927-2018

Alternative Names: Bishop John Hurst Adams;

Life Dates: November 27, 1927-January 10, 2018

Place of Birth: Columbia, South Carolina, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Bishop

Biographical Note

Bishop and college president John Hurst Adams was born November 27, 1927 in Columbia, South Carolina to Charity Nash Adams, a homemaker and Reverend Eugene Avery Adams, an African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) minister and educator. Adams graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Columbia, South Carolina and in 1947 earned an A.B. degree in

history from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Subsequently, he earned his Bachelor of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) degree and Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1952 and 1956, respectively. Adams also studied at Harvard University and Union Theological Seminary, as well.

As a seminary student, Adams was assigned to the pastorate of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Lynn, Massachusetts. Upon graduating, he served on the seminary teaching faculty at Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce University in Ohio. In 1956, Adams was selected to serve as President of Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas during which time he also served as campus pastor to all the students. In 1972, Adams was selected as the 87th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church after a prophetic ministry at First A.M.E. Church in Seattle, Washington and Grant A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles, California. At the time of his retirement in 2004/2005, Adams had served as Bishop of five separate Episcopal Districts to include his home district of South Carolina from 1992 to 2000. He was Senior Bishop of the A.M.E. Church from 1988 until his retirement.

Adams served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Allen University, Edward Waters College and Morris Brown College. In addition, he served as transitional Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Atlanta University Center. He founded and was the Chairman Emeritus of the Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. (CNBC). Moreover, Bishop Adams is the initiator of Executive Management Training for Black Church Leaders and Chairman of the Institute of Church Administration and Management (ICAM) Board of Trustees. He was active with the Joint Center on Political and Economic Studies, Transafrica, National Black United Fund, King Center Development Board and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Adams was the husband of Dr. Dolly Deselle Adams of New Orleans, Louisiana. They had three adult children and eight grandchildren.

Adams passed away on January 10, 2018 at age 90.

Related Entries

Booker T. Washington High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Wilberforce University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Johnson C. Smith University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

A.B.

Boston University School of Theology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

S.T.B., S.T.M

Case Western Reserve University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Bethel AME Church [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Student Pastor

Payne Theological Seminary [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1952 to 1956]

Professor

Paul Quinn College [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1956 to 1962]

President

First A.M.E Church [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1962 to 1968]

Pastor

Grant Memorial A.M.E Church [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1968 to 1972]

Pastor

87th Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to ?]

Tenth Episcopal District [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1980]

Bishop

Second Episcopal District [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1988]

Bishop

Sixth Episcopal District [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1992]

Bishop

Seventh Episcopal District [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1992 to 2000]

Bishop

Eleventh Episcopal District [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2000 to 2004]

Bishop

Emory University Candler School of Theology

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2005 to ?]

Adjunct Professor

Congress of National Black Churches [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Educational Growth Organization in Los Angeles

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Executive Management Training for Black Church

Leaders [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation (U.S.)

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

TransAfrica (Organization) [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Interdenominational Theological Center [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]