

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with T. Ray McJunkins

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Project Name Oral History project

Interview # PFM-A-L-2021-007

Reverend T. Ray McJunkins, pastor at the Union Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *People of Faith* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Mar 17, 26, Apr 7 & 14 Location: Union Baptist Church, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:57 + 2:30 + 2:29 + 2:36 / 1.95 + 2.5 + 2.48 + 2.6 = 9.53 hrs.

Session 1: Childhood in North Little Rock, first sermon and military service

Session 2: Pastoring at a Baptist church in Salina, KS and Baptist theology

Session 3: Formal theological training, pastoring in Texas and coming to Springfield

Session 4: Pastoring the Union Baptist Church in Springfield & contemporary church

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 9, 2021.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

T. Ray McJunkins, *People of Faith*, PFM-A-L-2021-007

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Tommy Ray (T. Ray) McJunkins was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on December 31, 1962 and grew up in North Little Rock. He was raised by a single mother who made sure that her children received a strong religious foundation. Tommy began working at a Sears store at age sixteen, and over the years distinguished himself and found mentors who were eager to help him. He gave his first sermon at age nineteen after a close friend passed away. In February 1984 he joined the Air Force, and following basic training, he was posted to McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas.

T. Ray left the Air Force in February 1988 and worked at a Boeing plant in Wichita while he also continued to preach at his church. In 1990 he was asked to serve as interim pastor at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church in Salina, Kansas, becoming their pastor in August of 1990. He received a BA degree in 1992 from Kansas Wesleyan University, then took courses at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and received a Bachelor of Christian Ministry degree in 1995, and a Master of Divinity degree in Christian Ministry in 1998.

At this time, he became pastor at Bethel Baptist Church in Longview, Texas. He soon began looking for another call, applying for a vacancy at the Union Baptist Church in Springfield, Illinois. In 2002 he accepted a call from that congregation. Shortly after arriving, Pastor McJunkins led the congregation through a major expansion project while continuing to grow the congregation. At the time of this interview he was still pastoring to that congregation. During the interview, Pastor McJunkins spoke at length about his Baptist faith, and also his involvement in the larger community on a variety of issues.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Growing up in North Little Rock, AR; Union Baptist Church, Springfield, Illinois; Baptist theology; National Baptist Convention; National Congress of Christian Education; Bethel Baptist Church, Longview, Texas; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; St. John's Baptist Church, Salina, KS; New Hope Baptist Church, North Little Rock;

Notes to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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