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Title

Dr. Imani Woody Oral History Interview and Transcript

Date

October 31, 2017

Extant

1 hour 43 minutes interview and 1 transcript

Abstract

In this oral history, Dr. Imani Woody, program director for 50+ ministry at MCC and CEO of Mary's House for Older Adults, discusses joining MCC and finding her lesbian identity at the same time, and forming connections with other women based on community support. She discusses the isolation and discrimination faced by older LGBT people, particularly people of color. Woody's work has included forming intentional communities for LGBT seniors and helping AIDS patients claim Social Security.

Biographical

Dr. Imani Woody is the founding director and CEO of Mary's House for Older Adults, Inc. She has a Ph.D. in Human Services, specializing in non-profit management. Her thesis was "Lift Every Voice: A Qualitative Exploration of Ageism and Heterosexism as Experienced by Older African American Lesbian Women and Gay Males when Addressing Social Services Needs." She holds a Master of Human Services degree from Lincoln University and is a graduate of Georgetown University's Paralegal program.

Dr. Imani Woody has been an advocate of women, people of color and LGBT/SGL issues for more than 20 years. She is currently working as a diversity and inclusion consultant in the field of health, aging and issues affecting the LGBTQ/SGL and people color communities. Dr. Woody is a member of the National LGBT Elder Housing Initiative, and presented on LGBT housing issues at the White House. As a licensed Standards of Excellence Consultant, Dr. Woody's specialty is to work with nonprofit organizations to develop stronger Boards of Directors and more engaged staff. She is adept at structuring and facilitating strategic planning

processes, including changes in organizational focus, identification of objectives and implementation of long and short-term goals.

Dr. Woody is a mayoral appointee to the DC LGBTQ Advisory Council, and is the Program Officer for the Older Adults Advisory Council for the Metropolitan Community Churches. Dr. Woody also serves as the Chair and Program Executive for Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) Metro DC (an organization serving LGBT elders), and a Board member of the LGBT Technology Partnership and has served many boards including the Mautner Project and the Women in the Life Association.

Formerly a training specialist for the AARP's Foundation, Dr. Woody developed curriculum and delivery of on-site and web-based trainings. She trained substantive experts to become trainers through the Train-the Trainer program and provided on-going technical assistance to field trainers. Dr. Woody has been a life coach for more than 10 years and is the founder and principal of Living Life Like It's Golden, a six-part program that empowers people to live their lives more fully through visioning. She lives with her wife of sixteen years in Brookland, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content

In this oral history, Dr. Imani Woody, program director for 50+ ministry at MCC and CEO of Mary's House for Older Adults, discusses joining MCC and finding her lesbian identity at the same time, and forming connections with other women based on community support. She discusses the isolation and discrimination faced by older LGBT people, particularly people of color. Woody's work has included forming intentional communities for LGBT seniors and helping AIDS patients claim Social Security.

This interview was conducted by Dr. Monique Moultrie, Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Georgia State University, and author of *Hidden Histories: Faith and Black Lesbian Leadership*. She conducted this interview as a consultant of LGBTQ-RAN as part of the oral histories project.

Access

Open to all researchers.

<https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/oral-histories/imani-woody>.

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Languages

Collection material is in English

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Tags

MCC

Black

Racism

Women and Religion

Washington, D.C.

Woody, Imani

EXHIBIT Rolling the Stone Away