

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Miguelina Howell

Date 2023 May 10

Primary Maker Samariya Smith

Medium born digital audio file

Description Interview with Miguelina Howell. Interviewed by Samariya Smith on May 10, 2023 in Hartford, Connecticut. She was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing her experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Miguelina recalled first hearing about covid on the news in December 2019. The first major disruptions in her life were shutting down in-person worship at her congregation and her children not being able to attend daycare. Miguelina mentioned that she had to bury two members of her congregation who died from covid. She also read last rights to patients in the hospital via an iPad. Miguelina agreed with mask mandates and vaccine mandates. She discussed pivoting to use Zoom for church worship since it could not be in-person and how her congregation connected with the community via telephone rather than in-person visits. She noted being scared to go home to her children after spending time with contractors and workers during her church's redevelopment project. Miguelina felt that the pandemic offered people the opportunity to re-evaluate their priorities on a personal and institutional level. She recalled that the Black Lives Matter movement began long before the pandemic, but that the pandemic highlighted prioritization of care for the dominant culture. Miguelina worked to become an American citizen

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in order to vote in the 2020 election, but could not share who she voted for

because of her position as a priest. She agrees with absentee voting as long as

there is accountability and a good process. The pandemic provided Miguelina

the opportunity to spend time with her family and bond with her young son,

which she would have missed otherwise. However, she did note that she lost

connection with a lot of people. She also felt that the congregation had to

reinvent itself to continue to serve the people.

Dimensions Duration: 14 Minutes, 20 Seconds