

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Hunter, Millicent, 1950-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 12, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:33:15).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Pastor and author Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter (1950 - ) was the founder and senior pastor of the Baptist Worship Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also served as the presiding bishop of the Worship Center Worldwide Fellowship of Churches. Hunter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 12, 2014, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_196
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Pastor, educator and author Millicent Hunter was born on September 3, 1950. She graduated from Overbrook High School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1968. Hunter went on to earn her bachelor's degree, two master's degrees, an Ed.D. degree, and a D.Min. degree from United Theological Seminary.

In 1992, Hunter started The Baptist Worship Center in her home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with five members. In 1997, after she rented facilities for a number of years, The Baptist Worship Center congregation purchased its first church in Philadelphia. Hunter then acquired a shopping center in Philadelphia in 2000 for the permanent location for The Baptist Worship Center. She has become senior pastor of the church and the ministry has grown to a congregation of more than 4,000 members. Hunter also established the Worship Center Worldwide Fellowship of Churches in 1998 with seventy-one churches in the United States and South Africa. In 2005, she was elevated to serve as a bishop of the United Pentecostal Churches of Christ International. Hunter also has a twice weekly television broadcast called *Your Season Is Coming*, and hosts the weekly *Moments of Inspiration* radio show in Philadelphia.

Hunter is the founder of the National Association of Clergy Women, the Excell Christian Academy, and the Worship Center Bible Training Institute in the United States and South Africa. She is also the chief executive officer of the Excell Community Development Corporation. Hunter has served as a city commissioner in Philadelphia and is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. In addition, she was a former dean of the Sanctuary Bible Institute and an adjunct faculty member at a number of colleges and universities, including the United Theological Seminary. She also taught in the Eastern School of Christian Ministry and the Urban Clergy Leadership Institute of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Hunter has authored eight books and is president of Hunter House Publishers. Her first book, entitled *Don't Die In The Winter... Your Season Is Coming*, became a bestseller and was produced into an eight-week television series.

Her other books include *Crashing Satan's Party: Destroying the Works of the Adversary in Your Life*; *Pot Liquor for the Soul*; *Strong Medicine: Prescriptions for Successful Living*; *Destined To Win: Prescriptions for Successful Living In Every Area of Your Life*; and *How to Survive a Hurt Attack*. Hunter has also published numerous articles addressing issues that impact African American life.

She has received numerous awards for her involvement in religious and civic affairs. Hunter was featured in *Gospel Today* magazine as one of America's top 10 global pacesetting pastors, and in *Charisma* and *Ebony* magazines as a leading pastor for world evangelism. Hunter was also included in a Smithsonian Institute pictorial study of African American life in the twenty-first century.

She is married to Dr. Marino Hunter and has two children, Jason and Melissa.

Rev. Dr. Millicent Hunter was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 12, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 12, 2014, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Pastor and author Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter (1950 - ) was the founder and senior pastor of the Baptist Worship Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She also served as the presiding bishop of the Worship Center Worldwide Fellowship of Churches.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Hunter, Millicent, 1950-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Hunter, Millicent, 1950---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Pastor

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Author

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers|ReligionMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, June 12, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:52 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter was born on September 3, 1950 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Doris Thomas Hall and Judge Hall, Sr. Her paternal grandmother, Lona Hall, had Native American heritage, which influenced her family's recipes and pickling techniques. Hunter's father was born in 1926 in Franklin County, North Carolina. He left school after the eighth grade to help his father farm, and was drafted into the segregated U.S. Navy when he was a teenager. After serving in Korea, he settled with Hunter's mother in Philadelphia, where he was hired as a cook at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. He went on to work in arboriculture for Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission. Hunter's maternal great-grandmother had African and Irish ancestry. Her mother was born in 1932 in Louisburg, North Carolina, and moved to Philadelphia with Hunter's father when she was a teenager. She graduated from Philadelphia's Lincoln College Preparatory School, and later received a master's degree and became a high school counselor.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:13 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter grew up in a predominantly African American, middle class neighborhood in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With her family, she attended Philadelphia's Vine Memorial Baptist Church, where she sang in the children's choir. Her pastor, Leonard G. Carr, was instrumental in integrating the staffs of the Tasty Baking Company and the Philadelphia Transportation Company. Hunter began her education at Edward Heston Elementary School in Philadelphia. Upon entering Overbrook High School, she was initially assigned to the vocational track, until her mother, Doris Thomas Hall, insisted that the school move her to college preparatory classes. Hunter participated in student government and the music and drama program. Her older brother, Ronald E. Hall, went on to become a professor of social work at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. Hunter also had a younger brother, Judge Hall, Jr.; and two younger sisters, Iva Hall Fitch and Barbara Hall Harvin.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:47 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter was raised in a strict Baptist household in West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As a student at Philadelphia's Overbrook High School, she participated in the Upward Bound program, which exposed her to college life. She went on to major in education at Cheyney State College in Cheyney, Pennsylvania. During the breaks from school, she worked as an Upward Bound counselor, and at a clothing store in Philadelphia. Upon graduating in 1972, Hunter was hired as an elementary school teacher in the Radnor Township School District in Radnor Township, Pennsylvania. There, she worked to restructure the district's gifted program, which discriminated

against African American pupils. She obtained a master's degree from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio in 1974. Then, the Radnor Township School District funded her graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where she received her doctorate of education in 1979.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:30 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter competed in oratorical contests through the Baptist church when she was a child in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Later, while working as a schoolteacher, Hunter was called to join the Baptist ministry. Her pastor, James S. Allen, Sr. of Philadelphia's Vine Memorial Baptist Church, encouraged her to pursue licensure, which she received in 1984. Two years later, Hunter was ordained as a minister, and was invited to teach at the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Around this time, she completed her doctorate of education at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. After serving as the interim pastor of Philadelphia's Church of Christian Compassion from 1990 to 1992, Hunter founded the Baptist Worship Center at her home in Philadelphia. Her first book, 'Don't Die in the Winter: Your Season is Coming' was published in 1995. At this point in the interview, Hunter describes the challenges faced by female ministers in the Baptist church.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:05 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1986. Around this time, she wrote her first book, 'Don't Die in the Winter: Your Season is Coming,' which was developed into a television series by the staff of WCPX-TV in Chicago, Illinois. Hunter also traveled to South Africa, where she provided guidance to other pastors. This opportunity led to her consecration as a Baptist bishop, and the formal establishment of the Worship Center Worldwide Fellowship of Churches. In 1992, Hunter founded the Baptist Worship Center, which she moved from Southwest Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Philadelphia's Frankford neighborhood in 2000. At this point in the interview, she talks about the church's programming, including its active prison and youth ministries. In 2010, Hunter received a doctorate of ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. Under the mentorship of Harold Hudson, Hunter wrote her dissertation about ministry for blended families.

Video Oral History Interview with Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter, Section A2014\_196\_001\_006, TRT: 6:07:48 ?

Reverend Dr. Millicent Hunter was the founder and senior pastor of the Baptist Worship Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the time of the interview, she was planning to reopen the church's Excell Christian Academy and to expand the Worship Center Bible Training Institute, which trained ministers and lay persons in the United States and South Africa. Hunter also established the Hunter House Publishing company to distribute her books. Hunter had two children, Jason Thompson and Melissa Thompson, the latter of whom was adopted. Her husband, I. Marino Hunter, worked as a physician assistant at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. At this point, Hunter reflects upon her life and legacy, as well as her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She concludes the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.