

streams run UPHILL

CONVERSATIONS

with young clergywomen of color



MIHEE KIM - KORT

streams run
UPHILL

CONVERSATIONS with young
clergywomen of color

MIHEE KIM-KORT, EDITOR

JUDSON PRESS
PUBLISHERS SINCE 1824
VALLEY FORGE, PA

Streams Run Uphill: Conversations with Young Clergywomen of Color
© 2014 by Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner, except for brief quotations included in a review of the book.

Judson Press has made every effort to trace the ownership of all quotes. In the event of a question arising from the use of a quote, we regret any error made and will be pleased to make the necessary correction in future printings and editions of this book.

Bible quotations in this volume are from

The Common English Bible (CEB) copyright © 2011 Common English Bible. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Holy Bible, King James Version (KJV).

THE MESSAGE (THE MESSAGE) copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

The New King James Version (NKJV) copyright © 1972, 1984 by Thomas Nelson Inc.

The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Interior design by Crystal Devine, Devine Design.

Cover design by Wendy Ronga, Hampton Design Group.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data
[TO COME]

Printed in the U.S.A.

First Edition, 2014.

*To all those women,
the mothers, the writers, the artists, and the prophets,
who are an oasis
and who stir up a fresh vision of God's kingdom with
their work and lives
so that we might continue faithfully in this journey.*

Judson Press

contents

Prologue	vii
Introduction	1
1 Embracing Womanhood: The Struggle with Sexism <i>Felicia Deas with Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	7
2 Where Are You <i>Really</i> From? The Struggle with Racism <i>Yana Pagan and Ruth-Aimée Belonni-Rosario with Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	18
3 You're <i>How</i> Old? The Struggle with Ageism <i>Mihee Kim-Kort with LeQuita Hopgood Porter</i>	32
4 Finding Your Place: The Struggle with Community <i>Laura Mariko Cheifetz</i>	44
5 We Need You: The Struggle with Tokenism <i>Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	58
6 Living a Paradox: The Struggle with Family <i>Erica Liu with Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	66
7 The Other Pastor: The Struggle with Legitimacy <i>Larissa Kwong Abazia</i>	78
8 What's My Passion? The Struggle with Discovering Niche <i>Yana Pagan, LeQuita Hopgood Porter, Felicia Deas, and Laura Mariko Cheifetz with Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	89

9	Can You Hear Me Now? The Struggle with Voice and Authority <i>Cheni Khonje</i>	105
10	Here I Am: The Struggle with Calling <i>Mihee Kim-Kort</i>	117
	Afterword	129
	The Writers	133

Judson Press

the writers

LARISSA KWONG ABAZIA is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her bachelor of arts from Rutgers University (2003) and her master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary (2007), both in New Jersey. She serves as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills, a multicultural, multiethnic congregation located in Queens, New York. She and her husband, Dan, have one son. She enjoys being with her family and friends, exploring new places, finding great restaurants, trying new foods, cooking, and reading.

RUTH-AIMÉE BELONNI-ROSARIO is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, she is associate director of admissions at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is married to a minister and spends much of her time reading, exercising, and serving churches in multiple capacities. She loves preaching, traveling, warmer climates, and walking along the shoreline.

LAURA MARIKO CHEIFETZ is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her master of divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary and her master of business administration from North Park University. Currently, she is director of strategic partnerships at The Fund for Theological Education. She enjoys spending time with friends over food, exploring whichever region in which she happens to live, and still believes *The Wire* is the greatest television show in history.

FELICIA DEAS is an ordained minister in the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church (UCC). She received her master of divinity from Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Currently, she is associate pastor at Shrine of the Black Madonna in Atlanta, Georgia, and a victim witness advocate for the office of the Fulton County district attorney. She has three children and enjoys spending time singing, dancing, and planning escapes to the Caribbean islands.

BRIDGETT A. GREEN is a doctoral candidate in New Testament and Early Christianity at Vanderbilt University. She is a teaching elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Prior to pursuing her doctoral studies, Bridgett served in various capacities among the ministries of Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. She preaches and teaches nationally for various conferences, congregations, and gatherings on the New Testament, women's ministries, and multiculturalism.

CHENI KHONJE is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and is currently serving a congregation in Dunkirk, New York. She holds a master's degree in microbiology and graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with a master of divinity. She is currently pursuing a doctor of ministry with a concentration in preaching at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Cheni loves to travel, knit, cook, and learn different languages, and she is an avid football and hockey fan.

MIHEE KIM-KORT is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her master of divinity and master of theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. Currently, she is the staff person for UKIRK at Indiana University, where she works with college students. She is married to a minister and has three children, and she spends much of her time reading, writing and blogging, and dreaming about food trucks.

ERICA LIU is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She received her master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. She currently serves as campus co-pastor

at Pres House, the PCUSA campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She shares and leads this ministry with her partner, Mark Elsdon, who is also an ordained minister. Together they have two children.

YANA J. PAGAN was ordained by the American Baptist Churches USA in 2008. She earned her master of divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Having served as a hospice chaplain and as an associate pastor, she is currently an adjunct professor of justice at Esperanza College of Eastern University. She also serves local ministries, including work as coordinator of afterschool program at The Simple Way, an alternative community founded by activist and author Shane Claiborne in urban Philadelphia.

LEQUITA HOPGOOD PORTER is an ordained minister in the Baptist church, as well as a licensed attorney and business consultant. She received a master of divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, a master of business administration from Rice University Jones Graduate School in Houston, Texas, and a law degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in Ohio. She currently serves as first female pastor of the 170-year-old East Preston United Baptist Church of Nova Scotia, Canada. She was also founding pastor of the Kingdom Bible Christian Church of Tampa, Florida. She is married to William Porter, and together they have two children and one grandchild. They now reside in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.