The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) was founded in 1968 by Rev. Troy D. Perry. Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) is more commonly known as Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), and we have been at the vanguard of civil and human rights movements by addressing issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, economics, climate change, aging, and global human rights for over 50 years.
MCC was the first religious organization to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies in 1969, which (combined with sustained social justice actions), led and paved the way for marriage equality in countries around the world. Under the ensuing leadership of our second “Moderator,” Rev. Elder Dr. Nancy Wilson (2005-2016), MCC continued to be on the forefront of human and environmental rights around the world. Dr. Wilson first visited Jimmy Carter at the White House and was appointed to President Barack Obama’s White House Advisory Council. Dr. Wilson was later invited to read scripture at President Obama’s second inaugural interfaith worship service.
MCC elected its third “Moderator” in 2019, Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston. She is the first moderator of MCC to reside outside of the United States. Today, MCC still recognizes a state of need around the world in the areas of human rights and justice including, but not limited, to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community. As people of faith, MCC endeavors to build bridges that liberate and unite voices of sacred defiance.

MCC leads from the margins and believes in “Transforming ourselves as we transform the world.”
**MCC Vision Statement**

Metropolitan Community Church is compelled by an unfinished calling and a prophetic destiny. We are a global movement of spiritually and sexually diverse people who are fully awake to God's enduring love. Following the example of Jesus and empowered by the Spirit, we seek to build leading-edge church communities that demand, proclaim, and do justice in the world.

**MCC Denomination Mission Statement**

*be MCC: Transforming Ourselves as we Transform the World*

Metropolitan Community Church proclaims and practices a spirituality that is anchored in the liberating Gospel of Jesus Christ and confronts the issues of our volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous world. We are called to develop and equip leaders, congregations, and ministries that foster spiritual growth, do the work of justice, act with compassion, and integrate sexuality and spirituality. We will do this through offering high-value training, local church support and resourcing, cutting edge theological exploration, and expanding partnerships.
Inclusion
Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be conduits of faith where everyone is included in the family of God and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God’s table.

Community
Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn, and grow in their faith is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work that God has called us to do in the world.

Spiritual Transformation
Providing a message of liberation from the oppressive religious environment of our day or to those experiencing God for the first time is what guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

Justice
Working to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and standing with those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.
MCC was founded by Rev. Troy Perry in 1968. Our first church was established in Los Angeles, CA and that church is now called “Founders Metropolitan Community Church.”

MCC is the longest-lasting, continually-operating, international organization for public education about homosexuality, sexuality and spirituality. MCC has been doing public education for religious organizations, educational institutions, governmental bodies, and others (including the general public) for over five decades.

MCC’s denominational staff are scattered throughout the world and work primarily in a virtual work environment.

MCC clergy and leaders represent a broad spectrum of ages, genders, races, cultures, languages, countries, abilities, and beliefs. More than fifty percent of MCC clergy are women.

For over 50 years MCC has ordained clergy and embraced various church leaders, who are openly gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, trans* or gender-non-conforming.

MCC has a presence in over 20 countries, and on every inhabitable continent.

MCC is known as Igrejas da Comunidade Metropolitana (ICM) in Brazil, and as Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana (ICM) in all the Spanish-speaking countries where there is an MCC presence.

MCC has affiliated and/or emerging churches in almost all American states, plus the District of Columbia.
Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston (2019 - PRESENT)

Rev. Elder Eggleston has been involved in MCC for 30 years, starting as a young LGBT activist who helped to plant a local church. She has served as European District Coordinator and as Regional Elder, working with our churches in Western Europe and Africa. She is one of the few MCC leaders who has served at a denominational level with both Rev. Perry and Dr. Wilson as Moderators, learning from them both about what it means to lead a global movement and international denomination.

Whilst undeniably [British] English, Rev. Elder Eggleston speaks some French and German. After serving for nine years as Pastor at Northern Lights MCC, in the UK, she spent a year travelling and fulfilling her wish list, including volunteering for three months in Swaziland, Southern Africa. She was so inspired by her experience there that she looked for opportunities to continue this justice work. She previously worked for an international development charity, Send A Cow, which trains and equips farmers in Eastern Africa to overcome poverty.

Rev. Elder Eggleston is an engaging preacher and public speaker, as well as an author. She returned to further her studies at Durham University, which has one of the leading theological departments in the UK. She gained a distinction for her dissertation: “Gay Men and Disenfranchised Grief.”

Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown was ordained with MCC in 2007, and holds a Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, and Master of Communications degree from Missouri State University. Rachelle is a currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Theology, Ethics, and Human Sciences at Chicago Theological Seminary. She has served as an Intentional Interim Minister, North Central U.S. MCC Network Leader, and MCC Emerging Church Specialist.

Rev. Brown published a chapter called “Beyond the Open Table” in the anthology Queering Christianity edited by Robert E. Shore-Goss, Thomas Bohache, Patrick S. Cheng and Mona F. West. (ABC-CLIO, 2013)
Rev. Dr. Wilson was the first “elected” Moderator within MCC, and she was one of the first women to lead an international Christian denomination. In 2010, U.S. President Barack Obama appointed Dr. Wilson to the President’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. For President Obama’s second inauguration, Dr. Wilson was the first openly LGBTQ person to read scripture at a presidential interfaith service. She had previously been among the first delegation of gay and lesbian people to meet with a sitting president, President Jimmy Carter. Her honors include receiving the first “Lazarus Award” from the Witherspoon Society of the Presbyterian Church (USA), preaching the Earl Lectures at Pacific School of Religion (2002), and being named among 50 powerful religious women leaders by Huffington Post.


Rev. Elder Perry is Founder of MCC, and the first moderator of MCC. He is an internationally recognized human rights activist and has received honors from many human rights organizations, including honorary doctorates from Episcopal Divinity School, Samaritan College and Sierra University along with awards from the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, the Lazarus Project, and the Gay and Lesbian Press Association.

His published works include: The Lord Is My Shepherd and Knows I’m Gay (1973), Don’t Be Afraid Anymore (1990), and Ten Spiritual Truths for Successful Living for Gays and Lesbians (and Everyone Else) (2003), and Profiles in Gay and Lesbian Courage (written with Thomas L. Swicegood, 1992). Rev. Perry the first American citizen to receive Cuba’s Cenesex Award in 2017. Rev. Perry was honored for his long history of working for human rights, and rights of the LGBTQ+ community worldwide.
LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

GENERAL CONFERENCE: The MCC General Conference occurs once every 3 years and is overseen by the Lay House and the Clergy House.

MODERATOR: The MCC Moderator is elected by the General Conference. She is the CEO, the Leader of the Senior Leadership Team, and she leads and guides the MCC denominational staff. She is the Chair of the Governing Board, she appoints the Council of Elders, and she is a member of the Council of Elders. She is the official spokesperson for MCC and is responsible for advancing the vision and mission of MCC worldwide.

GOVERNING BOARD: This is the MCC administrative board and its members are elected by the General Conference. Membership is composed equally of MCC clergy and lay leaders.

COUNCIL OF ELDERS: The spiritual leaders of MCC, Elders are appointed by the Moderator, approved by the Governing Board, and affirmed by General Conferences.
LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Moderator:
Rev. Elder Cecilia Eggleston

Community Development:
Rev. Elder Héctor Gutiérrez

Resource Development:
Rev. Dr. Kharma Amos

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM is composed of the Moderator, the Community Development Team Lead, and the Resource Development Team Lead.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT is made up of two teams (Community Building and Leadership Development) and they collectively seek to develop new ways of engaging with people, planting and growing churches, and developing healthy, trained and empowered leaders (both lay and clergy).

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT is made up of two teams (Fundraising & Finance and Communications) and they collectively seek to oversee internal and external communications including websites, social media, and email blasts; they collect information and ideas from local churches while also maintaining contact details for individuals and churches. They oversee giving and assessments while also seeking to find additional streams of income that can support MCC’s global ministry.
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Explore our MCC “We’re Seeking You!” visitor website at https://visitmccchurch.com/

Visit the official MCC website at https://www.mccchurch.org/
Visit our denominational Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/MCCchurch
Contact us at press@mccchurch.net

The official MCC logo can be found at https://www.mccchurch.org/ufmcc-logos/