



**CONGREGATIONAL
FORUM and
MEETING**

**MARCH
2026 AGENDA and
REPORTS**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday March 22, 2026 at 12:00 Noon EST

- **Zoom and in Person**
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Establish Quorum and Call to Order**
- **Approve Minutes November Congregational Meeting**
- **Continuing Resolution**
 - **Intention Forms**
- **Invitation to Join a Team**
 - **Generosity Team: Many Paths of Generosity**
 - **Music Minister Search Team**
 - **55th Anniversary Team**
 - **Church Growth Team**
- **Motion to Adjourn**
- **Closing Prayer**

Our Core Values

SPIRITUAL INSPIRATION: We offer worship, education, prayer, and spiritual formation opportunities, helping people experience Christ in Body, Mind, and Soul.

CONNECTION: We embrace the gifts of inclusion bringing diverse people together for discovery, friendship, fun, and support.

ENGAGEMENT: We put faith into action, serving for, and with, our Neighborhood and Community.

INNOVATION: We strive to be open to new ideas, learning together, and thinking in terms of the future.

Our Mission

We are creating a powerful inclusive spiritual community, working with God to make a positive difference.

Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, DC is a diverse community of faith. We are open, affirming, and inclusive. Our faith is rooted in the teachings and spiritual practices of Christianity. We also respect the rich wisdom of other faith traditions.

We affirm each individual as God's unique and gifted creation. With a history of celebrating diversity in gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity, we welcome all people.

We are called to:

- Learn, preach, and teach about God's unconditional love for all of creation.
- Create a welcoming and safe space to experience belonging in community.
- Be fully engaged in our own spiritual growth and giftedness.
- Support the growth of others on their spiritual journey to hope, healing, and wholeness.
- Actively promote equality and justice for all people.
- Follow the call of Jesus to "Come, taste, and see," inviting all to the open table of Jesus' beloved community.

Our Aspirations

Our vision is to be known as the leading creative and inclusive community of faith in the DC Metro Region.

CONNECTING AND ENGAGING

We will be known for the songs we sing and the joy we share. Our transformational stories and vibrant art will open new windows into the loving heart of our Creator. The love of Christ will shine through our lives reflecting a generous welcome with affirming acceptance. Our movement is becoming a faith community of many ages, cultures, and walks of life.

GROWING FROM THE INSIDE OUT

As we live into this vision, we will inspire people to discover and develop their talents. We will encourage the growth of their creative potential. We will equip them for Spirit-led ways of service to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

BECOMING A SPIRITUAL FORCE

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we share ourselves and our gifts to become a growing spiritual force for compassion, justice, and equality. In a spirit of collaboration, we partner with other communities and organizations.

As we fulfill this vision, we will have over 1,000 participants engaged in our weekly activities, online programming, and/or worship services.

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Overview

The congregational meeting on 11/23/2025 discussed the nomination of Sheila Chittams and Phil Helbling for board positions, with a motion to vote by acclamation. The financial report highlighted a general fund balance of \$19,009.97, a Buchanan fund balance of \$1,957.50, and a need for \$27,812 in estimated offerings and a \$54,000 generosity match. The motion to withdraw \$100,000 from the Far Reaching Faith Fund for the 2026 budget was debated, with concerns about fiscal responsibility and the need for a balanced budget. The motion was approved.

Congregational Meeting Attendance Updates

- Rev Dwayne Johnson announces the recording of the meeting
- The meeting began with a prayer and attendance being taken.
- Twenty-six (26) members attended the congregational meeting.
- Meeting had five (5) online and twenty-one (21) in-person attendees.
- The number of attendees represented a quorum, confirming that there was a sufficient number of members present for a congregational meeting.
- A detailed list of member attendees can be found at the end of the meeting notes.
- The congregational meeting started at 12:04pm and lasted 54 minutes.

Nomination and Voting for Board Members

- Sheila, who is on the board of directors, was mentioned in relation to a bureaucratic mix-up. The board suspended the bylaws to allow Sheila Chittams to stand for election, despite an oversight in her membership process.
- Rev Dwayne Johnson moves to vote on the nominations of Sheila Chittams and Phil Helbling by the board of directors.
- Phil Helbling and Sheila Chittams were elected to the board by acclamation.
- Phil Helbling expresses gratitude and trust in the process.
- Rev Dwayne Johnson highlights the need for financial, technical, and spiritual gifts for the board.
- The board will appoint one more position through the next November congregational meeting.
- Rev Dwayne Johnson mentions past appointments and the need for a new appointment.

Financial Report and Minutes Approval

- Rev Cathy Alexander provides an update on the financial status, including the general fund balance, Buchanan fund balance, loan balances, and investment property balances.
- The estimated offerings and generosity match total are discussed, with a need to reach \$40,000 or more.
- Rev Dwayne Johnson reports on the on-site giving for the match, totaling \$2,091 for Sunday giving and how matching campaign means the Sunday gift total is \$4,182.
- Sending out an extra E-blast can be used as a tool in the final push for the generosity campaign.
- Phil Helbling questions the financial report for clarity, and Rev Cathy Alexander explains the current financial situation and the need for the motion to withdraw funds from the Far Reaching Trust Fund.
- The congregation approved the minutes from the March 30th meeting.

Discussion on Budget, Motion and Financial Responsibility

Original Motion:

Move for congregational approval to use funds from Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund to finance \$15,000 required deposit with Hingham Bank to support refinance and up to \$85,000 to pay outstanding bills. Funds would continue to draw interest until necessary usage

- Members discussed the motion put forth for congregational approval. Five members spoke in favor of the motion while 2 members spoke against the motion.
- The motion was passed to use funds from the Far Reaching Faith Trust Fund to finance a \$15,000 deposit with Hingham Bank and up to \$85,000 for outstanding bills, pending financial campaigns' success.
- The motion passed with 24 members voting for the motion and 2 members voting against the motion.
- During the discussion, Brian Scott proposes a friendly amendment to require a balanced budget for the 2026 fiscal year based on the 2025 income.

Brian Scott Motion

Motion for balanced budget. The budget that is put forth and to be approved at the March congregational meeting will be no more than what we have taken in during this fiscal year. We should be planning budgets that are in excess of what we have been able to take in. I'm proposing that we require that the budget be, if necessary, shrunk and cut in various places to equal what has been given in these past 12 months

- Tim Helm raises a point of order, stating that the congregation has the authority to approve the budget in March.

- Brian Scott responds, emphasizing the need for fiscal responsibility and practical planning.
- The motion, including Brian Scott's amendment, is discussed, with various members expressing their support or opposition.
- The board informed members that board meetings are open and encouraged members to attend. Meets are 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.
- To better provide members information and access to board meetings, a special eblast will go out that will have access to documents that will be discussed in the board meeting.

Suggestions for Financial and Membership Growth

- Elaine Durden-Hunter suggests a positive approach and new ideas to attract new members.
- Dale Madyun-Baskerville proposes a campaign to reach out to former members and invite them back to the church.
- Darryl Walker emphasizes the importance of attending board meetings and staying informed.
- Donald Burch suggests putting the board meeting date on everyone's calendar and attending even if not able to participate.
- Brian Scott follows up on Johanna's point, suggesting a campaign to reach out to former members.

Closing Remarks and Prayer

- Rev Dwayne Johnson thanks the generosity team, finance team, and board of directors for their efforts.
- He highlights the work of the worship arts transition team and the reimagined ensemble.
- The meeting concludes with a closing prayer, emphasizing trust in God and looking for signs of hope and creativity.
- The congregation is encouraged to continue supporting the church and attending board meetings.

Action Items

- Prepare the 2026 operating budget to be presented at the March congregational meeting as a balanced budget based on 2025 income (per the board amendment) and coordinate with finance team on needed cuts or assumptions
- Investigate the \$1.95.75 fee charged to the Buchanan fund and report findings to the board
- Continue work to monetize and develop the digital church strategy (digital giving/engagement plans) and report progress to the board
- Send the E-blast on Tuesday to update congregation on generosity match status and perform a final giving push next Sunday; produce and distribute a short video next Sunday morning showing updated match progress
- Coordinate the generosity team's campaign ideas (including a targeted letter outreach / high-profile ask concept) and ensure the idea is placed on the generosity team's agenda for implementation

- Ensure the board of directors appoints one remaining board member at the board's next meeting (to serve through next November) and confirm the appointment publicly
- Publish board meeting materials (agenda and attachments) earlier to the full congregation (via E-blast or calendar posting) so members can review before the third-Tuesday board meetings

Congregational Meeting Attendees

Online

- Larry Harris
- Louis Hicks
- Brian Scott
- Jack Gerard
- Craig Arnold

In-Person

- Cathy Alexander
- Robin Anderson
- Craig Arnold
- Cathy Batson
- Emily Berry
- Donald Burch
- Bill Campbell
- Keith Clark
- Michael Cunningham
- Elain Durden-Hunter
- Jim Garner
- Johanna Hardy
- Phil Helbling
- Tim Helm
- Dale Madyun-Baskerville
- Tammy Orebaugh
- Knut Panknin
- Shirley Pittman-Lee
- Carla Sherrell
- Darryl Walker
- Tommy Wiggins
- Denise Wright



Associate Pastor's Report March 2026

2026 A Time of Transition and Engagement

MCCDC continues to be a present and necessary community. In this past year we have been engaged in community in a number of ways. We've experienced triumphs and challenges, highs and lows, forwards and backs. As a community of faith, we have responsibility and opportunity. We have been able to have a positive impact at multiple Pride events, we have supported each other in community by attending concerts, Sunday service, cookouts, learning about important issues from experts, and participating in children's Christmas parties. All of these make us a vibrant community of faith.

We have areas that are consistent in our ministry engagement and areas that we have grown over this last year as well. They include...

Worship support

Worship Folder Support Ministry

Worship Volunteer and Hospitality, Ushers, Greeters, Communion Support

Spiritual Engagement

Worship Planning Team

Daily Prayer Call

Sound Team

AV Team

Bible Study

Pastoral Care

Board of Directors

Office Volunteers

Older Adult Ministry

Writer's Ministry

Breast Cancer Walk

Walk to End HIV

World Pride

World AIDS Day

Worship Arts

Eclectic Praise

Reimagine Ensemble

Evernear Sound

Moving Spirit

Lay Delegates
Finance Team
Trustees
Pastoral Care
Communications
SHARE Grocery Card
PRIDE

What are the reasons we gather in community to pray, sing, and participate? We do it for the love of God, neighbor, self. Mica 6:8 reminds us that God has already shown us what the Lord requires of us; Do Justice, Love Mercy, and move humbly with our God. What is your personal reason to participate?

In October the Generosity Team began an initiative to gather congregational intentions for the coming year, Time, Talent, and Treasure. What you have said about finances will be shared in a different report. Here I would like to share what you have shared regarding your hopes, dreams, and intentions for your MCCDC community of faith this year. Here is just a sample of what you have on your hearts.

- That MCCDC continue to be the Place to Be!
- God's will, a Gospel Choir, & Financial Prosperity.
- I pray that God continues to bless MCCDC and grow our church.
- To continue to be present in for anyone anywhere seeking spiritual impact support
- Isaiah 40:31 "[...] but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
- My prayer is that MCC-DC continues to grow.
- That during this time of transition we walk in faith.
- Peace
- Divine guidance, courage for love and justice
- God help me to share your love.
- To grow as a community and fulfill God's mission for our lives.

Can we all pray for these intentions, hopes, and dreams as a community together? Let's add to our ongoing future.

Our community continues to be at risk, and we have a responsibility to care for each other, to engage with each other, and to challenge each other to grow. As we talk about membership and celebrating our friendships, it's important to make sure we continue to work to make sure that MCCDC is a place people will want to come. We can do this by making sure our Mission, Aspirations and Values are consistent and aligned with our movement as a community. Who are we and where are we going? How will we get there leaving no one behind?

This is an Opportunity for MCCDC. . .and For You

We invite you to prayerfully consider your calling and interest. Together, with each person engaging in opportunities, ministries and offerings, 2026 can be a year of depth and growth for MCCDC. Stay posted

for more information and more to come in 2026. Please consider bringing your gifts and skills to a team to help move forward in hope, peace, love, and joy.

- ✚ Chili cookout at the end of March
- ✚ Other Engagement Opportunities sponsored by the Generosity Team and Older Adults Ministries
- ✚ Join a short term team
 - 55th Anniversary Team
 - Music Minister Search
 - Church Growth/Membership
- ✚ Congregational Forums, Meetings and other opportunities to engage and meet
- ✚ Anniversary & Homecoming Sunday
- ✚ Anniversary Celebration
- ✚ Pride May and June

We are grateful to God for you, and we look forward to what God will accomplish through us as we engage together. If you have suggestions, comments, ideas, I want to hear from you. Please contact me and let's have a conversation.

Rev. Cathy Alexander

TOMMY E. WIGGINS
tommyewiggins@kw.com

EDUCATION

Master of Arts in Education - Curriculum and Instructional Design-University of Phoenix-2010
Bachelor of Science, Legal Studies-University of Maryland University College-2008
ETS Praxis- Paraprofessional Assessment Test -DC Public School (Passed); MD Dept. of Education (Passed)-2013
Licensed Real Estate Agent- Washington, DC & Maryland
Notary Public: Commissioned in Washington, DC-2018

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Macy Department Store

Columbia, MD

October 2022-January 2023

Seasonal Sales Associate * Cashier * Monitor dressing room * Return merchandise to selling floor.

* Assist customer with promotional discounts

FEMA

July 2021-September 2021

Hyattsville, MD.

Customer Service Representative. Assisting disaster area populations with resources for benefits from FEMA. At home position.

DC Prep

Washington, DC

Substitute Teacher-2017-2018

• Served as a long-term substitute for general and special education classes.

Grades 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th ELA classes.

• Delivered daily instructions to students with learning disabilities in Reading and Math.

Enriched Schools

Washington, DC

Substitute Teacher-2016-2017

• Served as a long-term substitute for special and general education classes.

Grades Pre-K, 3, Pre-K4, 2nd, 3rd, 4th classes

• Provided daily instructions for students in Reading and Math.

WyzAnt Tutoring Service

Silver Spring, MD

Tutor-2013-2016

Worked in the District of Columbia Charter Public School assisting students in grades 1-4

• Concentration in reading comprehension skills, spelling, writing, and study skills. Recruiting parents for tutoring through on-line job board hosted by WyzAnt.

SOS Personal, LLC

New Castle, DE

Substitute Teacher-2011 -2013

Works at the District of Columbia Charter Public Schools assisting an average of 18-20 students per class in Pre-K to 5th grade.

• Delivered the planned instructions and kept students moving toward the goals and objectives of the standard curriculum.

• Substitutes in Art, Music, and Spanish as needed.

District of Columbia Public Schools Washington, DC

Teacher (Bruce Monroe Elementary School at Parkville) 2008-2010

• Served as a long-term special education substitute for special education, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.

Worked directly with nine students from three grades as pull-outs during the course of a school day for one-on one instructions.

• Developed daily instructions for students with learning disabilities in Reading and Math and behavioral issues which impacted their learning abilities.

• Incorporated learning activities to include individual instructions and learning centers to align with established Individual Evaluation Plans (IEPs).

• Followed the students IEPs to ensure the correct instructions were offered during the class period. • Obtained ten graduate-semester hours in Special Education.

Teacher (DC Teaching Fellow)

2nd Grade Teacher

Assisted 18 students at Cleveland Elementary School with curriculum instructions for the term of 4 months.
Established classroom centers and developed instructional groups with different learning levels.
Provided consistent updates to parents who were interested in learning activities within the classroom.

- Was very successful in working with school counselors, psychologist, and the administrative staff to identify six additional students in the class who needed to begin the first phase of obtaining special education resources.

ORGANIZATIONS

DC Metro Circle of Friends, Inc.-Secretary
LGBTQ Community Center – Volunteer

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Education and Employment Specialist

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Brand Marketing -Traffic Manager (Freelance)

University of Maryland University College

Advertising Traffic Manager (Office of Marketing and Communication)

RTC Relationship Marketing

Traffic Manager

Washington, DC

2009-2010

Rockville, MD

2008 -2008

Adelphi, MD

2007-2008

Washington, DC

2006-2007

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Project, Excel, Lotus 123, Adobe Photoshop, Quark Express, InDesign