



CONGREGATIONAL FORUM SPECIAL

CONGREGATIONAL FORUM

Special

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Noon

**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.” ~Psalm 32:8**

“God, what do you seek to do through MCCDC?”

Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84942654825>

Meeting ID: 849 4265 4825

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,84942654825#

Opening Prayer

Guiding Documents

Church Priorities

Financial Update

How you can help

>Generosity

>54th and 55th Anniversary

>World Pride

>Social Media Engagement

Announcement Highlights

>Spring Forum (March 16th)

>Spring Congregational Meeting (March 30th)

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.

AIMM 2025: ATTRACT, INCLUDE, MATURE AND MOBILIZE

One of our top priorities is growing our membership. The Board and Staff will be working on ideation and implementation of this priority, engaging our current constituency in the process.

One approach to consider is “AIMM 2025” a three-year-initiative that includes the following touchpoints:

ATTRACT: MCCDC must attract new people if we are to grow our membership. With the upcoming Sanctuary Renovation Project and the expansion of our online capacities, we will focus on how we present ourselves to the broader community, locally and globally. While it is important that our physical and online presence convey our welcome and our accessibility, it is also important to engage our congregation in attracting people. Our videos on TikTok and YouTube are high quality. Yet the impact will be limited unless these videos are “shared” and “liked.”

INCLUDE: After attraction, the next step is inclusion. This includes intentional development on what happens after people attend in person or online. In addition to acknowledging their initial presence of new friends, next steps include invitations to further engagement, learning about their needs, and also learning about the gifts they are willing to share.

MATURE: We are called to grow numerically, and also spiritually. Church health is important as church growth. It is important that we create programming to increase biblical literacy, theological development, and practical application of spiritual practices. Also key is continued attention to healthy communication and leadership covenants.

MOBILIZE: MCCDC has what the world needs. Now it is time to put our message into action. It is important that the various gifts of our communities be identified and then for each person to find their place in sharing it. Some may be called to more internally focused actions such as hospitality, intercessory prayer, and internal pastoral care, including Barnabas Culture Ministries. Others will be called to more externally focused actions such as our involvement in Pride, justice events, public gatherings, community service, the Komen Race for the Cure, The Walk to End HIV and neighborhood commissions. As we mobilize, our message of healing and wholeness will expand for God and for Good.

Guidelines for Dialogue

PRAYER AND MEDITATION ARE THE CENTER. IT IS OK TO ASK FOR A PRAYER/MEDITATION PAUSE.

TRY ON NEW IDEAS, EVEN THOSE THAT INITIALLY BRING UP FEELINGS OF REJECTION OUT OF HAND

IT'S OK TO DISAGREE (WITHOUT BEING DISAGREEABLE)

IT'S NOT OK TO SHAME, BLAME, AND ATTACK SELF OR OTHERS

USE "I" LANGUAGE TO AVOID UNIVERSALIZING OR ASSUMPTIONS

PRACTICE BOTH/AND THINKING; TRY REPLACING “BUT” WITH “AND”

BE HERE NOW: LISTEN

DO NOT INTERRUPT

INVITE QUESTIONS

TRY NOT TO GET FOCUSED ON WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY NEXT

BE AWARE OF INTENT AND IMPACT

ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS

(In a non-threatening or accusatory tone)

RECEIVE QUESTIONS AS CURIOSITY NOT ATTACK

KEEP CONVERSATIONS IN THE ROOM; OUR STORIES ARE OURS TO SHARE

BE SELF AWARE OF BODY LANGUAGE AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS

“Put away . . . all bitterness and wrath and viciousness and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” ~Ephesians 4:31-32, (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, alt .)

Guidelines for Dialogue are based on the work of Visions, Inc. (www.visions-inc.com)