

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2024 AGENDA

and REPORTS

**CONGREGATIONAL**

**MEETING AGENDA**

***Sunday, November 24, 2024***

**Opening Prayer**

**Establish Quorum and Call to Order**

**TEAMS**

**Digital Church Team**

**Social Media Team (Johanna Hardy)**

**Digital Resource Center**

**Short Term Projects (Darryl Walker)**

**Finance Team**

**Generosity Team**

**Membership and Growth Team**

**Board of Directors Highlights Video**

**Written Reports**

* **Minutes of March 2024 Congregational Meeting**
* **Pastoral Report**
* **Treasurer’s Report**

 **Board approved motion:** that the Board recommends that the transfer of

$100,000be approved from the Far Reaching Faith

 Trust Fund for upcoming maintenance and

 columbarium construction

* **Lay Delegates (no report received)**
* **Trustees (no report received)**

**Board Elections**

 **Chocolatte Miller**

 **Tim Helm**

**Lay Delegate Election**

 **Donald Burch, III**

**Bylaw Revisions**

 **Motion to Adjourn**

**Closing Prayer**

**Congregational Meeting Minutes**

**March 24, 2024**

Moderator: Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson

Quorum: 21 members present

Quorum established

Meeting called to order at 12:34 pm

Opening prayer by Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson

Video of church highlights for 2023 and early 2024

Shout out to Jim Garner, newest Board of Directors member

Agenda approved by the Board of Directors

Approval of Treasurer’s Report

 Moved by Board of Directors

 Seconded by Cathy ???

 Approved unanimously

Approval of Ministry Action Plan

 Moved by Board of Directors

 Seconded by Knut Panknin

 Approved unanimously

Announcement

 Intention Forms now available on MCCDC website

 At the Easter services, there will be a blessing of the retiring Boad of Directors members

and new Board of Directors

Shout Outs

 Board of Directors

 Rev. Jules and Dr. Carla for successful Colloquium

 Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson

 Rev. Dr. Robin Gosline

 MCCDC Tech Team

 Wisdom Gathering attendees

Adjournment

 Moved by Bryant Scott

 Seconded by Dale Baskerville

 Approved unanimously

Closing Prayer by Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson

**Pastor’s Report**

**2025 The Year of Engagement**

MCCDC is a necessary community. We have worked faithfully through the years for LGBTQIA rights and protections, for anti-racism, and for health initiatives such as HIV/AIDS and Breast Cancer research. These and other callings are centered in our highest calling that God is with us through it all. Stated simply: God loves us, and we are called to share that love. As companions on a journey of worship and justice, we find strength together and then share it.

Today so much of what we have worked for is at risk. Rights achieved through the efforts of MCCDC and our partner organizations are under threat. We’ve already seen the erosion of voting rights, freedom of choice and Transgender equality and safety. With God’s help and the power of God working through us, we can meet the challenge. And we can find joy as we do so.

**Engage and Grow our Worship**

Worship is the heartbeat of our lives. Through worship, we experience the presence of God and power of community. In 2024 we moved to one worship service at 10:30AM and opened the 9AM time slot for spiritual dialogue and a rehearsal time towards increased worship participation.

We aspire to worship that is inspired and connective, and also reflective of our many styles and ways of expression. It is important that our worship leadership reflect diversity. Min. Diedre Gray and Min. Daniel Scearce each brought unique gifts to help us offer music rooted in Black Gospel expression on one hand, and more traditional on the other, with lots of nuances and ranges. Min. Gray moved to new opportunities in July of 2024 with a focus on her acclaimed work in the wider community. We are grateful to partner with her in new ways as part of our calling to be out in the community. Min. Daniel Scearce continues to minister faithfully at MCCDC. In addition to worship leadership, he is directing the Reimagine Ensemble rehearsal at 9AM. We are grateful for his ongoing leadership.

Now we are seeking to add a Co-Minister of Music to build worship inspired by the gifts of the Black Gospel tradition, Latinx, First Nations and other multi-cultural and multi-generational expressions. We trust that God will bring us the right person.

**Engaging and Growing On-site, On-line and On-Demand**

A key opportunity for numerical and spiritual growth is continuing to reimagine ourselves as a multi-locational church. We are located physically at 474 Ridge Street NW. We are a strong and vital presence in our neighborhood. In 2024, one of our partners, The Early Learner’s Academy (ELA) grew at our physical location. ELA is helping to build strong families, and MCCDC is grateful to be part of that. And we are located digitally through various platforms. Our digital platforms provide a way for people to find us. Many have found us. For some this has been an entry point to coming to us on-site.

 For others, the on-line experience is their only point of participation with our community. We are called to do everything we can to ensure the digital experience is meaningful. Indeed, for some, this is a digital lifeline. At 3AM, at a point of need, some have found hope in our on-demand programming.

To grow and move into our destiny, we need to build Digital Ministry Teams. This includes a Social Media Team that would help support and educate the congregation on how anyone can support this. Did you know that when you “like” one of our videos, it helps to improve our analytics? Similarly, when you “share” one of our videos you are helping us to grow our on-line membership. Both of these actions take minimal time yet have significant impact. Our You Tube Channel has grown to 590 subscribers. That’s good. Yet by organizing our efforts, we could grow this channel exponentially.

Another growth opportunity is to build a strong Digital Resource Center. We need a Digital Resource Center Team. Here is a place where there could be a “MCCDC 101” introduction video to who we are, our story, our Statement of Faith and other foundational touchpoints. Other digital resources would include such topics as Homosexuality and the Bible, Destigmatizing Mental Health, Becoming an Anti-Racist Church, Earth and Spirit (Dr. Robin Hawley-Gorsline) and other topics.

There are other important opportunities to serve and use your spiritual gifts in community. We are redeveloping the finance team to make recommendations to the board. We also need a membership and growth team to help keep watch over the implementation of ideas and contacts for MCCDC’s growth. Where can you share on one of these short-term teams?

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

We invite to prayerfully consider your calling and interest. Together, with each person engaging, 2025 can be a year of growth for MCCDC. Stay posted for more information and more to come in 2025, including but not limited to;

\*The Bible in 90 Days

\*Creation and Earth Webinar Series by Rev. Dr. Robin Hawley Gorsline

\*Security Training

\*Board of Directors Retreat with Follow-Up Congregational Forum (Early February)

\*Anniversary & Homecoming Sunday (Palm Sunday)

\*Hope to Go on First Sundays

\*Anniversary (Palm Sunday)

\*World Pride in May and June

\*And more!

We are grateful to God for you and we look forward to what God will accomplish through us as we engage together.

Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson Rev. Cathy Alexander

**Chocolatté Miller**

August 22, 2024

Dear, Rev. Elder Dwayne Johnson and all Congregants of MCC DC

Chief Leadership Officer

Safe Place

800 Maine Avenue, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20024

 In the interest of the upcoming Board of Director elections in November 2024; I am formally submitting my interest as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors for voting in the next Congregational Meeting.

 I am interested in regaining membership on the Board of Directors of MCC DC due to my consistent devotion to assuring successful consistency and accountability of church operations and oversight. I feel I can be an even more invaluable resource to the board of directors now, compared to last year with respect to my ongoing course work and hands on experience in my current nonprofit leadership role.

 Additionally, I can further contribute by offering my well-versed knowledge and up-to-date industry proven financial strategies and nonprofit platform market research. This knowledge will only benefit church funding and provide a significant increase to carrying out the reach we strive to accomplish in our community. Moreover, it would contribute to much needed increases for our hardworking church staff.

 I have been a member of MCC DC for over fifteen years and served in several volunteer and layleadership roles, specifically with MCC Global & MCC DC. I plan to continue that path in leadership as I offer all levels of my skillset to the Board of Directors, if elected.

 As a reference, I have attached my curriculum vitae for consideration to serve.

Sincerely,

Chocolatté Miller, CHRM

**Tim Helm**

***My Lord, I have been in the wilderness a mighty long time but I ain't got weary yet!***

Dear Fellow MCCDC Members,

 The purpose of this letter is to ask your consideration of my nomination to serve on the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington D.C. (MCCDC).

 I've been a member of this church since the 1990s and have served in many capacities including several terms on the BOD (vice moderator, treasurer and clerk). I also served as the chair of the Buchanan Memorial Building Fund as well as co-chair of the Dominican Republic Outreach Team that helped plant MCC Santo Domingo and organized many mission trips in support of that ministry. I was also presented with the McCann Award for Volunteer Service.

 The obvious question is why do I want to serve on the BOD? I believe there are forces in this world that are trying to reframe God's definition of love to their advantage. They will tell you that there are exceptions to God's love that allow the discrimination of certain groups of people. Their twisted definition of God’s love is contrary to everything that we hold true. Their actions will harm our friends, allies, and the most disadvantaged among us. This is NOT a political issue! Rather, it is a direct attempt to misuse our Christian faith to harm others. God calls us to be people of love, people of faith, and people of inclusivity. I believe that MCCDC ~ our pastors, staff, and congregation ~ are being called to respond to this challenge with all the God-given resources that we have available. Since our birth in 1970, our church has a long history of always responding when our faith beliefs are being challenged.

 In my lifetime, this is the most serious challenge I have ever seen to take away God-given human rights and dignity that we hold so dear as a Faith community. We'll need everyone involved in this effort and that's why I'm running for the BOD.

 Just like a tree planted by the water, we shall not be moved.

Tim Helm

**Donald Burch, III**

November 20, 2024

Dear Rev. Dwayne,

 Thank you for asking me to consider the position of lay delegate. I am honored and this letter serves as my formal letter to express willingness to serve in this position.

 Over my several years of membership in MCCDC, I have volunteered in many capacities. In addition, I have volunteered in the Washington, DC community since 1986 . As a retired social worker, I feel I am well equipped to handle the duties of lay delegate.

Sincerely,

Donald Burch, III

**Bylaw Revisions**

**Article VI- Local Church Administrative Body**

1. Name-The local church administrative body shall be the Board of Directors, which is authorized to provide administrative leadership for the Metropolitan Community Church of Washington DC, Inc., MCC-DC, subject to approval of the Congregational Meeting.

1. Responsibilities: The Board of Directors shall be responsible for providing the church with a set of Bylaws, which are subject to approval by Congregational Meeting and the MCC Office responsible for Bylaw changes. The Board of Directors shall also have charge of all matters pertaining to the documents of legal organization and incorporation, risk management, and physical and financial affairs of the church. The Board of Directors shall also be responsible for collecting and disbursing funds, keeping adequate church records, and making timely reports to the Congregation and MCC. The Board of Directors shall appoint separate Trustees of the Buchanan Memorial Building Fund to be responsible for matters pertaining to maintenance and, subject to the approval of a Congregational Meeting, the acquisition and disposal of church real property.
2. **The Board of Directors may appoint Subcommittees composed of members in good standing not on the Board of Directors to assist in carrying out responsibilities of the Board of Directors subject to the oversight  and direction of the Board of Directors. The role, requirements, and reporting structures of any such subcommittees shall be clearly defined and created by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as conferring to any member not on the Board of Directors authority vested in the Board of Directors under the bylaws or in law. Any member appointed to a subcommittee is, at the direction of the Board of Directors, assisting the Board of Directors in its duties.  Members of a Subcommittee may be removed at the will of the Board of Directors.**
3. Term of Office-The term of office for members of the Board of Directors, except the Pastor, shall be three-year staggered terms, with one third being elected at each annual Congregational November Meeting. **Terms shall be concurrent with the Church's budget year.**

**Article X- Lay Delegate**

The church shall elect one (I) lay person for every one hundred (100) Members in good standing, or part thereof, to serve as Lay Delegate. The Lay Delegate shall be a Member in good standing of this church.

1. Election- The Lay Delegate shall be elected at the next regular Congregational Meeting following each General Conference. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect.

1. **Term of Office- The term of office of Lay Delegate shall be three (3) years.**

1. Duties -The duties of the Lay Delegate shall be to represent the congregation at General and Regional Conferences, and to communicate with the congregation regarding MCC concerns and policies. **If there is no active elected Lay Delegate nor Alternate Lay Delegate, the Board of Directors shall appoint another person to serve as the Lay Delegate.**
2. Funding- To the best of its ability, the congregation shall fund the Lay Delegate's transportation, registration, and per diem at General and Regional Conferences.

**Article XI- Church Finances**

* 1. Authorized Signatures – Any note or check drawn on a church bank account or other financial account shall require the signature of two current members of the Board of Directors **or one board member with the counter signature of one designated signatory as designated by the Board of Directors.** No signatory may sign a check for which they are the payee. Expenditures made must be consistent with the approved budget or any amendments to the budget adopted in accordance with these bylaws. Transfers may be made between the Church’s accounts by the bookkeeper, so long as he or she is acting consistently with the policies and procedures adopted by the board.