

Elder Appointee Rev. Dwayne Johnson

My Hope for serving as an Elder is to “be there” for MCC as MCC has been there for me. My hopes are grounded in gratitude.

I’m grateful that MCC was there for me when I was a teenager in Kansas and felt so lost and alone and hopeless. There was no place for me. I did not fit. I did not know what to do with the hurt inside of me. Then I found MCC in Kansas City. There was a place I could be! MCC seemed almost too good to be true—yet MCC was true. It was true then and it is true today and our call is to stay true!

MCC was there for me when my beloved partner John Raymer died of AIDS. MCC was the hands and feet and heart of Christ. I am so grateful.

MCC was there for me and my hopes as an Elder is to be there for MCC.

My hope is to be there to work for global justice. The celebration of marriage equality in many places in the United States is incomplete—we cannot fully celebrate because we have siblings from Uganda to Russia to so many places around the globe fighting for their basic livelihoods and in too many cases fearing for their lives.

My hope is to invest in future generations who will help MCC continue to re-invent itself to be love-in-action for a changing world. My hope is for a dynamic partnership of clergy and laity sharing their gifts with mutual respect and honor. Another hope is to help MCC to do deep inner work to support our outer work, so people don’t burn out. Through the years I’ve seen too many people burn out. Rather than burning out, our call is to burn with---to burn with passion from the inside out.

My hope is that I would not represent a specific group or specific agenda—but rather love and serve the entire constituency of MCC; while valuing the distinctive stakeholders, cultures and perspectives that make MCC so vibrant.

It has been a blessing to serve MCC congregations in Richmond, Virginia; Resurrection MCC in Houston, Texas; and now MCC Washington, D.C. It has also been a joy to serve the broader community through organizations like the Coalition for Mutual Respect and our Peace Mission to Israel as a group of Jewish, Muslim and Christian clergy and educators committed to peaceful dialogue. It would be my joy to continue serving the local church as Senior Pastor of MCCDC in alignment with new possibilities to expand service with the global church.

One translation of Jeremiah 29:11 says, “God gives us hope with a future in it.” I believe that is so true for MCC. My hope is to see MCC as a spiritual force for good and for God in our world.