

Elder Appointee Rev. Pat Bumgardner

My hope as an elder is to continue to model and inspire the kind of devotion to the Gospel that enables people around the globe to find their peace and the promise their lives hold.

I hope to continue to help MCC explore more deeply its founding vision of salvation, community and social justice, in ever evolving contexts.

I hold the Gospel to be a radical social manifesto, meant to inspire us to bring the Reign of God among us. That is why we pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” --
- I believe that perspective is one that can both unite our churches globally, and help us grow as a movement of faith.

I hope to help deepen a sense of connection between our communities globally, and to strengthen our ties with other groups working for social change and human rights.

Everywhere I have traveled on behalf of Metropolitan Community Churches and the Global Justice Institute, people are hungering for safe space spiritually, politically and personally --- and I believe MCC holds that Isaian prophesy to be a house of prayer/a house of hope and promise for all people.

I hope to continue to offer MCC’s space in New York City as a learning site for both future leaders of our denomination and those interested in and called to the work of global justice.

And, I hope to be a “right hand,” so to speak, for our Moderator now and in the future, opening up opportunities for the person who leads us to meet and connect with others around the globe who can help open doors to peace and inclusivity.

I have been blessed to work in many contexts around the globe and to meet many different people, which I hope can be useful.

I have experience building a church in a challenging environment, and managing financially in a dwindling economy.

I love MCC and I have made my life’s work here. I am a decent preacher and have helped enable a lot of people seeking to find their paths of service. I hope that will continue to be helpful to MCC. I believe I have and will continue to represent MCC well globally.

One of the most interesting partnerships we are pursuing right now is in Kenya, where The Rev. Michael Kimindu, representing the Global Justice Institute, is convening a monthly group of 10-17 pastors and ministers to talk about HIV and AIDS prevention among marginalized populations, sexual orientation and gender identity. Our hope is that in those discussions we can find a way to agree that while we may interpret what the Bible does and does not say differently when it comes to LGBTI life, we can all agree it says, “Thou shalt not kill,” and in this way begin to cultivate a message of peace and safe space for LGBTI people, and bring the kind of change people overall are looking for.

I am excited about our work in Costa Rica with Central American refugees, and about the potential of our partnership in Maringa, Brazil.

Our efforts in Asia are expanding exponentially, with an upcoming leadership mentoring retreat where we expect 100 people. We already have newly formed groups in 10 major cities in China.

The work I have been blessed to be part of through MCC and the Global Justice Institute is, I believe, restoring hope to peoples’ lives, and I hope to continue to be part of it.

May God bless us all.