

# Cecilia Eggleston – Transcript of Video

Hello, I'm Reverend Elder Cecilia Eggleston and I'm delighted and incredibly honoured to be a candidate for Moderator.

At the last General Conference, we developed our new Statement of Faith and that has so much wisdom about who we are. In the preamble it says, "in the midst of our diversity we build community, grounded in God's radically inclusive love for all people". Because we need to celebrate our diversity, but we also need to celebrate that we are community. We build community - we're good at this. We need to be in unity going forward. In the main statement it says "we are each unique and we all belong, a priesthood of all believers". So what is it that binds us together? What is it that gives us the unity that we need?

These are our core values; inclusion, community, spiritual transformation and justice.

Do you remember the first time you came into MCC? Did you cry because you were just so relieved to have found a spiritual home? Or were you delighted because you looked around and saw people who were just like you - wanting to be fully yourself and live a life in God? We need to be unified to go forward together, so that we can truly do what God is calling us to do and be. Because God has not finished with us yet, so we need unity.

We need stability. We need to have an honest, open and respectful dialogue about what we need for the 21st century.

What denominational structure do we need?

How will those different entities work together?

How will they be accountable?

and what will they be responsible for?

How can we build trust between local church leaders, local church communities and the denomination?

We need to be able to trust each other, to believe each other, to work together and be respectful.

We really need a sound financial base. We need to look at other income streams - we need to be imaginative. We also need to recognise that God will provide everything that we need, but we need to be clear about what God is calling us to do and to be. So we need to develop our shared vision. Each of us has a part of that. And then we need a sound strategic plan, using our resources and our finances to answer what God is calling us to do and be. We would be able to see our progress as we work through our strategic plan together.

Unity, stability and growth. We all need to grow - me and you. We need to raise up new leaders. We need to encourage our existing leaders and congregations to try new things in this 21st century. We live in the digital age and there are so many opportunities for us there, but we also know that there is loneliness and isolation. So what are the needs that we can meet directly on our streets and in our cities and join hands across the world?

Some of us have the privilege of marrying and walking safely down the street. Others of us live in difficult and dangerous times and there are places where it's truly frightening to be LGBTQI. So those of us who have privilege and have voice we need to give voice to the voiceless. Justice runs in our DNA and we need to continue to do that work to make a difference in the world. And as we do that, we will continue to grow in so many different ways.

You know, I've been part of MCC for thirty years I came in as a young woman helping to plant a local Church. I have been privileged to serve our European and African churches as District Coordinator and Elder. I know the joys of pastoring a local church and the challenges that that brings. I know what it's like to be in front of the whole crowd at a Pride Festival and sit in the congregation and cry. I know what it's like when money can run tight, but also that dreams are so big.

I look forward to hearing what you have to say, your hopes and visions for our time going forward together. I look forward to dancing in the Holy Spirit with you and walking in the way of Christ.

Thank you for watching

God bless.

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