

Open Doors Lead Us in New Directions



Some doors never really close. Through their faithful legacy they remain open in new and expanding ways. On Sunday, February 28, 2021, Open Door MCC in Boyds, Maryland, USA, held a final worship service. This service was a time of honoring and celebrating more than 38 years of vital ministry that continues to transform individuals and communities through the denomination and beyond.

Open Door MCC began as the MCC Rockville study group. That group held its first service on Easter Sunday, 1982, and was welcomed as an official study group in October 1982. The group was supported by MCC of Washington DC. Pastors included Sherre Boothman, supported by Rev. Jack Seymour in 1982 and Susan Tedder and Lani Remington from 1983 to 1985. In 1985, Virginia Miles was appointed pastoral leader. Over the next five years the church became stable and viable under her leadership. They also began to fundraise for their vision to have a building to call their own, and which would also serve the larger community. They did so in wildly creative ways, and among many others, Rev. Miles and (now Rev.) Jeff Miner were instrumental in that effort.

Rev. Ken Ehrke became pastor in 1991 and the church became Open Door MCC and began construction of a church building in Boyds, Maryland. After almost 12 years meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville, the congregation

moved to the Boyds property on September 16, 1993. The building was dedicated and Open Door MCC was granted Charter Church status on May 21, 1995.

The church was led by a variety of pastors and interims:

- Early study group leaders: Sherre Boothman, Rev. Jack Seymour, Susan Tedder, Lani Remington
- Rev. Virginia Miles, Pastor (1985-1990)
- Rev. Ken Ehrke, Pastor 1991-2000
- Rev. Deana Dudley, Interim 2001
- Rev. Dr. David Kerr Park, Pastor 2001 - 2002,
- Rev. Steve Filizzi, Interim 2002
- Rev. Dr. Jill McCrory, Rev. Dr. Steve Swafford, Rev. Leon Hampton, Provisional Pastoral Team (2003)
- Rev. Dr. Robert Apgar-Taylor, Pastor 2003 - 2009
- Rev. Dr. Jill McCrory, Interim 2009 to 2011
- Rev. Miller Hoffman, Pastor 2011 to 2017
- Rev. Wendy Hamilton, Interim 2018 to 2019
- Rev. Dr. Jill McCrory, Interim 2020 - Closure



Open Door MCC has trained and sent out many clergy candidates – some of whom are leading MCC or other churches today. Rev. Dr. Robert Griffin, Rev. Jeff Miner, Rev. Wayne Schwandt, Rev. David Morganseay, Rev. Richard Clark, and Rev. Fern Gaffey.

Ministries over the years have included nursing home visits, the Joyful Noise choir, Tasha's Follies, Drag Bingo, chili cook-offs, spaghetti dinner dances, distribution of hygiene kits, fundraisers for AIDS and HIV

work, constant supply of food to the local food bank, marching in the Capital Pride Parade and outreach at Pride festivals in Washington, DC, Frederick, and more.

We give thanks for all those who have worshipped and served in ministry through the years with Open Door MCC. We pray for the Community during the time of transition and goodbyes. We give thanks for their faith, commitment, and example of gracious leadership.