

Moderator's Report November 2021

Submitted to Governing Board Meeting 7th December 2021

Before commencing my report, I wish to note, with deep sadness, the passing of our colleague, Camille Araullo. Camille served as Diversity, Inclusion and Laity Development Co-ordinator and worked passionately to ensure that the many voices of MCC are heard. She will be much missed.

This month, it has been a joy to work with our different partner organisations, as they honour MCC's Founder, Rev. Troy D. Perry. I attended the LGBT Religious Archives Network webinar in which Rev. Perry was interviewed about his life and ministry <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/> I also joined the online gala celebrating the work of the Charter for Compassion. MCC has recently become a founding partner with the Charter to develop its work on LGBTQIA issues. The gala included speakers, such as the Dalai Lama, theologian Karen Armstrong and activist Isabel Wilkerson. It was wonderful to see the annual Troy D. Perry award being included in this gala and seeing MCC's ministry being introduced to a new audience. The Charter for Compassion has partners all over the world and I look forward to seeing how MCC can be involved, both on a local and an international level.

<https://charterforcompassion.org/>

MCC has worked closely with TFAM (The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries) over many years. Bishop Yvette Flunder and I met this month and discussed how the two denominations might continue to support each other and benefit from each other's ministry. This will be an ongoing dialogue.

The Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation has completed its end of year report. For me and the other Commissioners, it was very profound to read all the testimonies that were submitted and to draw out main themes from very personal stories. The report will be published in new year and the Commission will then embark on further consultation to hear as many voices as possible, as we seek to address racism and other oppressions within MCC.

Budget planning has been a major focus this month. Earlier in the year, the Governing Board approved the following 5 strategic aims for 2021 – 2025:

Spirituality

Clear articulation of our queer, inclusive theology with rites and sacraments that reflect our values

Presence

Global presence which is locally appropriate and globally robust

Diversity

Increased integration of diverse people in a holistic and measurable way

Leadership

Robust recruiting, training and mentoring plans to raise up a new generation of leaders

Resources

Abundant and appropriate resources that reflect and embody the generosity and creativity of our people

The Senior Leadership Team (me, Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez and Rev Dr. Kharma Amos) used these aims in making recommendations for budget priorities for 2022. I am grateful to members of the Governing Finance Committee for their great skill in developing the draft budget for Governing Board approval. The members of the Finance Committee are Chad Hobbs (Treasurer) Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey (Vice-Treasurer), Rev. Dr Kharma Amos, Tammy Erwin, Marina Laws (all Finance Team staff), Rev. Marsha Warren and Doug Berger (volunteers).

Other areas of work include:

Connection with MCC churches and Networks

- Recorded video greetings for church anniversaries and Network gatherings
- Offered time of prayer and reflection on Facebook Live
- Individual conversations with MCCers around the world
- Providing pastoral support where needed

Diversity and Inclusion

- Reviewed Diversity and Inclusion reports with Senior Leadership team to see where recommendations can be included in staff work plans

Outreach

- Attended the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network “Queering Our Roots” campaign discussion, featuring Rev. Troy Perry

Governing Board

- Chaired working group of Council of Elders and Governing Board to discuss judiciary policy and procedures
- Participated in monthly Finance Committee meeting
- Received reports from monthly meeting with Henderson Financial Group re the endowment fund

Staff

- Offered time of prayer in response to the Rittenhouse verdict and other legal proceedings in the USA from incidents where Black individuals have been injured or killed.
- Regular meetings with Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez and Rev. Dr Kharma Amos as Senior Leadership Team
- Monthly meeting with Rev. Dr Kharma Amos and Marina Laws to discuss ideas for connecting with our Partners in Hope supporters
- Met with staff to discuss challenging situations in individual churches
- Participated in regular staff briefings and facilitated monthly staff meeting
- Regular meetings to plan General Conference 2022

Council of Elders

- Participated in Council of Elders Planning team meeting
- Participated in Council of Elders Communication team meeting
- Participated in Council of Elders Pastoral Care team meeting
- Participated in Council of Elders meeting

Commissions

- Co-chaired Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation (CPHR)
- Participated in Commission on General Conferences meetings