

## Moderator's Report January 2022

### Submitted to Governing Board Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

For the first time since I became Moderator, I organised a joint meeting of MCC staff, Governing Board and Council of Elders to work together. This 3-hour session was facilitated by Evangeline Weiss <https://gobeyondconflict.com/our-team> and focussed on the five areas that the Governing Board approved as our focus 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

It was an engaging and very energising session, as colleagues on all three bodies shared their ideas for moving MCC forward. There are now working groups to develop goals and actions for each of these areas and a follow up session will be facilitated by Evangeline, probably in March, to ensure that we have an action plan. I will establish a team from the 3 leadership bodies to monitor and evaluate progress.

The Commission on Pathways of Healing and Reconciliation, which I co-chair, published its interim report and held 4 webinars, offered live in different time zones. The Portuguese/English and English/Spanish webinars were particularly well attended and I hope that, as a consequence, the Commission will hear from a broader spectrum of MCCers based in different parts of the world when the pathways open again in February. My co-chair, Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, will present the findings of the interim report to the Governing Board, Council of Elders and staff this month, in line with the commitment to ensure that everyone in leadership in MCC is involved in ensuring that MCC becomes more racially equitable, diverse and inclusive.

A huge thank you to Thrive MCC, Tallahassee, USA for the donation of US\$200,000 to UFMCC, as the church has now closed. The Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the Governing Board for how to honour the legacy of Thrive MCC with this gift. Prayers of thanksgiving for the many years of ministry of this congregation.

Our staff team are hardworking, committed and resourceful. The Senior Leadership team (Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez, Rev. Dr Kharma Amos and me) conducted a survey to ask colleagues what might help them to manage their selfcare at work. Several individuals expressed the desire to have some regular time each week to focus without interruption on their work. The SLT has now proposed Wednesday as a meeting free day each week, across the staff team, starting 16<sup>th</sup> February, so that staff can have the time and space needed to be creative and productive.

The Council of Elders held six Epiphany prayer vigils across the globe. This is the first major public event that the Elders have developed together as a Council, since their appointment. I participated in all the vigils, offering the closing prayer and blessing. It was a joy to see the Elders each leading the vigil in their own way, reflecting the rich diversity we have on the Council.

Other areas of work include:

### **Connection with MCC churches and Networks**

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

### **Diversity and Inclusion**

- Discussed antiracism training options with Senior Leadership team
- Discussed translation issues with SLT and wrote to German MCC leaders for suggestions on developing translation into and from German.

### **Outreach**

- Corresponded with Jon Boswell, Charter for Compassion, on potential joint music project
- Worked with James Hartman on press releases related to transphobia and the death of Thich Nhat Hanh

### **Governing Board**

- Chaired first meeting of the Procedures Committee, which will set out the processes for the General Conference online business meeting. Ms Huey Lee, MCC Lubbock, USA, will co-chair this committee with me
- Chaired working group of Council of Elders and Governing Board to discuss judiciary policy and procedures. The review of the judiciary process is now complete. It will go to the attorney for comment, before coming to the Governing Board. Huge thanks to Rev. Deana Dudley, Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez, Rev. Elder Diane Fisher, Rev. Elder Karl Hand and Rev. Elder Troy Treash for their work on this
- Participated in monthly Finance Committee meeting
- Participate in the monthly meeting with Henderson Financial Group re the endowment fund. The drafting of the Investment Policy Statement (IPS) which set out how MCC will manage its investments, is now complete – a huge task!

### **Staff**

- Regular meetings to plan General Conference 2022
- Completed my end of year evaluation with James Chavis (Governing Board) and completed their evaluations with Rev. Elder Hector Gutierrez and Rev. Dr Kharma Amos
- 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

### **Council of Elders**

- Participated in Council of Elders meeting planning
- Participated in Council of Elders Pastoral Care team meeting
- Participated in Council of Elders meeting