

Pastor's Report
Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, July 17, 2016

What a joy to be settling in as the pastor of MCC Richmond. Many thanks to Board members, the staff and congregation for making this process a blessing.

My first week of ministry was attending and representing MCC Richmond at MCC General Conference (GC) in Victoria, British Columbia. During the week it was fun to meet many pastors from our District who already knew my name and expressed their excitement for our mutual ministry. Lay Delegates David Wilson and Chris Kopczynski were engaged in GC attending/representing our congregation at business meetings, worship, workshops and interacting with others from around the globe.

One of the highlights of GC was to experience the interaction delegates/clergy are given to ask questions, share opinions and speak from the 'floor' during business sessions. While at times this could be frustrating, it was wonderful to realize within MCC polity everyone has a voice and is given opportunity to speak/share.

Election of the new Governing Board was swift however voting members were not able to elect a new Moderator. Please see Chris K.'s excellent explanation of this and the appointment of an Interim Moderator in his report.

Another highlight of GC was the incredible creativity, enthusiasm and spiritual engagement of worship. We started and ended our days hearing excellent preaching, singing a variety of songs, sharing prayers and communion – even dancing together.

Undoubtedly the most significant event for me personally was to have my final interview for ordination (transfer of credentials) within MCC. The panel included local clergy Rev. Joe Cobb, Rev. Wes Mullins and Rev. Wanda Floyd. Our time together was enjoyable and blessed as they affirmed my gifts for ministry and welcomed me as their colleague. Because I have already been ordained within the ELCA the transfer of credentials was immediate. From our sharing it became clear to me I would like to be ordained within MCC. My hope is the October 8th service will be an Ordination-Installation Service at MCC Richmond. I look forward to discussing this at our Board meeting.

David, Chris and I are scheduled to hold a Congregational Forum after worship on Sunday, July 31 to give a report regarding GC.

Sunday afternoon July 10 Cheezi and I along with a few others from our church attended a Prayer Vigil at New Beginnings. We also stayed to enjoy their Summer Concert after the Vigil. It was a joy to be asked to participate in the Vigil and to begin meeting/developing relationship with other clergy/congregations within the Richmond area. It was also a great way to jump right into ministry after returning from GC.

This past week I met with staff to better understand work routines, build trust/working relationship and to begin implementing additions to our work. All my suggestions have been met with positive responses and activity by Jay, Bubba and Ginny. Together we all worked hard and I believe we will continue to strive to create an effective office that welcomes and represents a high work ethic.

Working with the Worship Team we've made a couple additions to the worship service. Every Sunday I will greet the congregation before the procession as well as read the Gospel lesson or whatever text is the basis for the sermon. There will also be a Gospel Acclamation before the Gospel reading. This will be a joyful song as we hear the words of Jesus. Each week I will do my best to coordinate this, or any changes/additions, with the Worship Leader in an attempt to help him/her to aware of the flow of worship.

Chuck has created beautiful artwork for a 'welcome' banner to be placed outside our church. This banner is imperative to have as I've learned there are people working at close at the Bank of America not even aware of our church. It will also serve as a way to invite our neighbors to church.

Last Wednesday evening I attended the Community Service for Unity at the Southern Baptist Church on Monument. The service was well attended by the congregation however an usher told me I was the only person from the community. In coming weeks, I will invite local clergy for coffee to begin getting to know them as well as consider ways we might serve our community.

I have sent email requests to meet with Rev. E and Rev. Janet Avery to get to know them better and learn how they would like to serve at our church. Neither has responded however I will continue to follow up.

The Executive Director and Executive Assistant of Diversity contacted me and scheduled a meeting for Monday, July 25. They are anxious for us to continue to foster our relationship and discern ways we can be mutually supportive to one another.

My office is set up and several people have stopped by to share/visit this week. I am grateful for a comfortable office to spend time with those who come by. Don't hesitate to stop by and say "hi."

Many thanks for your warm welcome as your new pastor. It is a blessing to serve with such dedicated, loving, brilliant people. Each of you are special to me and hold a warm place in my heart. I am looking forward to our ministry together.

Blessings!

-Rev. Kenny Callaghan