



Agape' MCC Weekly News May 12 2010

Upcoming Events

Wed May 12:

Choir Rehearsal

Thu May 13:

7pm Spirit Road: God in the Dock

Fri May 14:

6pm Samaritan House Supper Club

Sat May 15:

6pm Men's Fellowship @ Zio's Italian Restaurant

Sun May 16:

10:30am Worship Service

Mon May 17:

7pm Deacons Meeting

Wed May 19:

7pm Choir Rehearsal

6:30-8:30pm New Membership Class

Thu May 20:

7pm Spirit Road: So, you think you're NOT creative?

The History of Christianity at Spirit Road

Please join us for the last in our series on the History of Christianity. This DVD series is presented by gay Christian Historian Diarmaid MacCulloch who is faculty at Oxford. There will be time for discussion. This week's presentation is:

May 13 - God in the Dock

Upcoming Spirit Road Topics:

May 20 - So, you think you're NOT creative?

May 27 - Finding God in Pop Culture



Weekly Meditation, May 12, 2010

By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Letting Illusions Die

We would rather be ruined than changed - even though change is who we are. We would rather die in our anxiety, our fear, our loneliness, than climb the cross of the moment and let the illusions die. And the cross is also the crossroads, the choice. We are here to make that choice. ~ Charlotte Joko Beck, "Nothing Special: Living Zen"

This quote interests me because although it talks about the cross (a very Christian symbol), it is written by a Buddhist practitioner. There are some universals in the world. Whether Christian or Buddhist, one universal about the nature of our lives is that our lives are full of change.

Change is the nature of who we are. We resist this concept. We get up in the morning and the furniture is where we left it. The children or spouses or co-workers with whom we interact in the morning are still there and we say many of the same things to them every morning. I look in the mirror and I still recognize my face. But underneath the facade of solidity and stability and predictability is this flowing current of change. From one nanosecond to the next, things are always moving, in flux, in transition, always unfolding.

Nothing stays the same. Not the weather, not my body, not my world. Change is who we are. If for a moment we could embrace that reality, entertain that idea and not shrink away, not be afraid of what the day might bring, I think the universe might burst forth in us.

May Stats:

05/05:

Attendance: 127

Offering: \$1,143

05/12:

Attendance: 115

Offering: \$2,312

05/19:

Attendance:

Offering: \$

05/26:

Attendance:

Offering: \$

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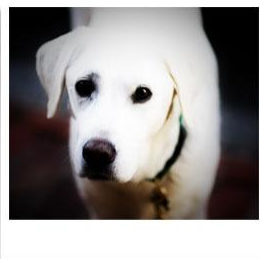
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We get to choose whether to "climb the cross of the moment and let illusions die" or just keep going round and round in circles hoping somehow the circles get more comfortable. Change is who we are. Crossroads. Choices.

Prayer: God, I am taking your hand today. Help me navigate the changing landscape of my life with courage, anticipation even. Awaken my awareness to the places where I resist the changes that you bring into my life. Changes that ultimately promise growth, depth and greater connection to you. Amen.



Everman Animal Shelter Needs YOU!

We have received word that the Everman Animal Shelter (just 2 miles from the church) needs help. They have immediate needs for bleach, Dawn dishwashing liquid, concentrated Lysol, and bags of puppy food and adult dog food.

Just bring these items to the church (leave in the Fellowship Hall) and volunteers will get these items to the shelter.

New Member's Class and Orientation

Wednesday, May 19

Fellowship Hall

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in exploring becoming a member at Agape' come join us for this class with Rev. David on May 19. You will get a short orientation about where you can access information about our denomination (Metropolitan Community Church) and a brief history of Agape' MCC. We will explore our spiritual journeys and the journey that Agape' is called to as a community. Feel free to bring your dinner!



General Conference Update



Thanks to everyone who has completed the MCC Structural Change Survey it out earlier by the Agape' MCC Lay Delegates. So for we have received **47** completed surveys! There is still time to complete the survey and give your input to our Lay Delegates before conference. Here's a link to the survey (if you haven't already taken it):

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2sw4kcng6v6xw3j/start>

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**PICK UP THE PHONE...
& raise funds for
Agape'!**

Call the Kudlac Insurance Agency at 817-656-0885. Identify yourself as a member or friend of Agape' MCC and ask for an insurance quote: home, auto, renters, life, etc.

Agape' MCC will receive a \$25 check
for your inquiry.

Contact us at:
www.agapemcc.com

817-535-5002

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Please complete soon. Results of the survey will be announced by the end of this month. These results will help guide your church delegates to vote on the proposed changes at the Business Meeting in June.

The General Conference business meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 June 2010, in Acapulco, Mexico. The business meeting packet is now available for download. The packet includes the following documents:

MCC Business Meeting Agenda,
MCC Procedures Manual,
MCC Board of Administration Chair Report (BOA),
MCC Board of Pensions Report (BOP),
MCC Elders Nominating Committee Report (ENC),
MCC Lay Ministry Council Report (LMC),
MCC Lay Delegate Manual.

Click [here](#) to view and download each of the above listed documents

In addition, by the 1st of June, we will receive the Moderator's Report, information on the candidates for the Governing Board, and an updated plan for implementing the proposed structure.

The revised proposals are now available for your review and to download at www.structurereview.mccchurch.org.

They are presented and explained in several related documents, beginning with the Preamble and followed by:

1. **Overview of the Proposed Structure** - Provides explanatory detail for each element of the proposed structural change and refers to the relevant Bylaw amendment proposals and other actions that would be needed in order to implement the particular element.
2. **Proposed Structure at a Glance** - Shows the proposed decision-making authorities and the reporting relationships that would be created.
3. **Bylaw Amendment Proposals** - Provides detail on each of the Bylaw amendment proposals that General Conference will be asked to approve in order to implement the proposed changes in the MCC structure. Approval requires a 2/3 affirmative vote by the Lay House and a 2/3 affirmative vote by the Clergy House.
4. **Charter of the Governing Board** - Approval requires an affirmative vote by a majority of the Lay House and a majority vote of the Clergy House.
5. **Who Is My Elder?** - Shows the differences between the responsibilities that the Elders would have as they provide care and consulting services for churches.
6. **Cost of the Proposed Structure** - Provides an overview of the anticipated cost of the proposed structure compared to the current structure.

Prayers:

- All those traveling and on vacation- for rest and rejuvenation.
- Health and healing for Anna R.
- For all recovering from recent hospitalization / surgery.
- Those starting new jobs.
- For all who are looking for new employment.
- For those still looking for answers.
- Families in transition.
- Those who have suffered recent loss.

Praises!

- Thanks to all those who participated and contributed to the Spring Church Garage Sale- over \$900 in sales!
- To those who work behind the scenes to make our worship spaces and experiences run smoothly. You are appreciated.
- For our office volunteers!
- For our Board of Directors- virtual hugs!!!

Our Mission- With open hearts, open minds, and open arms, Agape' MCC is a nurturing faith community seeking God's will by celebrating inclusive worship, redefining family, and providing a voice for justice.

Our Core Values- We believe that a sacred space: Welcomes and affirms all people; Does not "stand idly by" in the face of inequity and injustice; Communicates the unconditional love of God for all; Improves the spiritual connections between each person and God as she or he understands God.