

## 2020 Fall Congregational Meeting Reports – November 15, 2020

### Senior Pastor Report submitted by Rev. Keith Mozingo

Dear Saints,

This is a pastor's report that is different than any I've ever written. With the collision of the Covid-19 pandemic, the worldwide protests, and all of our lives turned upside down, it has certainly been a very different time for us as a church. We have definitely had to think outside the box and figure out how to BE church and DO church without gathering.

It seems so long ago that we met, but there are many things we have accomplished since our Fall Congregational Meeting. Look at some of the things we did before the pandemic put our gathering-in-person on hold:

- Thanksgiving - had a huge potluck lunch, then provided over 100 hot plates and delivered to the homeless in our neighborhood
- Advent sermon series
- Our Lady of Guadalupe service
- Christmas Eve Service - one of the best yet!
- Ash Wednesday service and imposition of ashes (both in worship and in the streets of Los Feliz) Lenten sermon series
- Good Friday worship, preceded by carrying the Cross through the streets of Los Feliz
- Change to a new worship time - 10:00 a.m. breakfast & lunch served
- Small group ministry implemented - two new groups formed: Pride and Young Adults

Something else that happened that really put our church in the limelight was our non-traditional Nativity set during the month of December. As you'll recall, we had Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus in separate cages - to bring light to the refugee children that had been (and continue to be) separated at our Southern border. Rev. Alejandro and I must have given a dozen interviews to multiple media outlets, many of them on camera. Some of them were translated and shown in other countries around the world.

When the pandemic started and we were asked not to gather for worship for a while, my first thought was, "How do we stay connected?" There are some things Rev. Alejandro, the Creative Worship Team, the Board of Directors, and I discussed to figure out how to continue our ministry, and much of that got fast-tracked.

Since the pandemic began, here are some things we've accomplished:

- continued to have worship online
- expanded our worship to Facebook Live, not just our website
- started online Bible Study in Spanish
- invited everyone to participate in the Evening Vespers, Zoom Pastor Pop-ups, Bible Studies, and Rosary
- invited everyone to send in pictures of themselves watching service online (for the Passing of the Peace)
- celebrated Juneteenth, Trans Pride, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter
- Held a "cruise-by" 50th Anniversary for Rev. Barbara Haynes and Evelyn Price
- honored Mark Hahn's 50th Anniversary of MCC church membership
- celebrated the 28th Anniversary of our Spanish-speaking Ministry

celebrated the 1st Anniversary of our Saturday Night Spiritual Interfaith service (lead by Rev. Sheena Metal)

celebrated Rev. Troy Perry and the Christopher Street West Pride Parade's 50th Anniversary with a "Cruise-by" celebration at the church

participated in the virtual Pride Parade held by The Lavender Effect

continued to offer our Food Bank ministry on Saturday mornings with extended hours and a new routine that keeps people safe (It's not unusual to feed over 150 families per week.)

As time continues to pass with us still unable to gather, there are more things we can do that can keep us connected. One thing we are discussing is the possibility of a church app. This would be used for notifications of church events, messaging, watching worship, Bible Studies, giving, and updates to church news.

I do want to mention that our congregation has not been spared this virus. As you know, several of our members have been in the hospital and some treated at home since this started. All but one are better; we did lose one of our brothers, Juan Ochoa. We also lost Josh Carrillo Ryan to pneumonia and Danny Lopez, who was struck by a car. We continue to hold their families in prayer.

While we are disappointed that we can't gather at the moment, we know that staying apart is the best way to say, "I love you" these days. I do love you, and I appreciate your participating and giving in the ways we are offering. Please know that you are in my prayers, and I am looking forward to the day when we're in one place again.

Pastor Keith

### **Clerk's Report** submitted by Jenni Nichols

As of October 25, 2020, our active membership stands at 150. We have accepted four Transfer of Memberships this year and welcome Rev. Wayne Lindsay, George Padilla, Dennis Bell, and Harald Huckins to our congregation.

## Associate Pastor Report submitted by Rev. Alejandro Escoto

Querida familia – Dear family,

As the Associate Pastor of Founders Metropolitan Community Church – Iglesia Fundadora de la Comunidad Metropolitana Los Angeles, the novel Coronavirus has awakened in us, as pastors and community, a resilient faith that keeps us looking forward as we commit ourselves to God and our faith communities. As a result, our ministries have adapted accordingly:

As the Associate Pastor, I continue to:

- Attend the biweekly Creative Worship Team meetings
- Provide technical assistance to the Creative Worship Team by developing and updating the weekly service workflows for the 10 a.m., 1:30pm Sunday services, as well as special services as needed.
- Download, update, embed videos and review Sunday’s powerpoints for a fluid presentation for both the 10am and 1:30pm Sunday service.
- Attend weekly/biweekly Teleconferences for Faith-based organizations which give timely updates on the feasibility of when we can begin to hold in-person worship services.
- We continue to provide Pastoral Care with the vital assistance of Rev. Onetta Brooks who has been an angel to many during this critical period.
- One of the last in-person events/services that we had was the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday in which Rev. Keith and I offered ashes and prayers on the streets as well as in the chapel. The evening concluded with an Ash Wednesday evening service officiated by Rev. Keith and myself.
- Although this was mentioned in the last Ministry Report, I believe it deserves a worthy mention: in the early months of Covid-19, Rev. Keith and I carried the Cross through the streets of Los Feliz as well as broadcasting it on FB Live using our own phones. This attracted many viewers and serves as a reminder that this is a cross that we are called to carry. And we do so willingly.

As the Pastor of ICM Fundadora, Covid-19 has obviously changed how we engage in our groups and events. The following is a summary since the Covid-19 restrictions:

- We continue to broadcast Sunday services through various social networks;
- Lead and empower a small group of volunteers for the Spanish speaking 1:30 p.m. mass who read and assist with the sound, broadcast and powerpoint development;
- Work with Peter Kirkpatrick as he continues to work with “**Voces de Alabanza**”, the Spanish speaking choir, in their continuing passion to glorify God and engage our community with Sunday music. In fact, the music for the 1:30pm Spanish Service has exceeded expectations because of Peter Kirkpatrick and **Voces de Alabanza’s** passion for vibrant, new and traditional music.
- Hold weekly Spanish Bible Study which initially started on Facebook Live and is now on Facebook Group Chat, which allows for a more dynamic conversation;
- Hold a weekly Bilingual Prayer of the Holy Rosary every Thursday;

(Continue...)

- Since Club Tempo is not open and we are not able to do our monthly outreach on the last Sunday of each month, a ministry which was started by Martin Covarrubias and Gef Aviles, Gef has created videos highlighting our engagement at Club Tempo as a reminder that we are still very much present in the life of the community;
- Toña Luna and Lulu Mardid organized ICM Fundadora volunteers for the Pride Cruise-By in which FMCC and ICMF honored Rev. Troy Perry and his husband, Phillip, who were poised in front of the church in a nice set-up.
- Prepare an Ofrenda (Day of the Dead Altar) that will be displayed on the front steps of the church.
- We are organizing a virtual Mass honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe which will include a special presentation by Mariachi ArcoIris. The virtual event will be broadcast on December 12 at 10:30am;
- We are organizing a virtual Mass honoring the Black Christ of Esquipulas with the hopes that we will be able to include live Marimba music by Maya Inmigrantes. The time and date is yet to be determined.
- I continue to speak at virtual events that engage the LGBTQ+ Hispanic/Latinx Community.
- I was a panelist for the **Conferencia Nacional de las Iglesias de la Comunidad Metropolitana (ICM)** (the National Conference of ICM Mexico, as I, along with other religious experts from other ICMs and secular experts spoke on ***Diversity and Spirituality: Living with HIV***

Peace and blessings as we continue to journey through this pandemic, together.

Rev. Alejandro

## Spanish Music Ministry by Peter Kirkpatrick

The Spanish music ministry continues to be blessed and supported by a dedicated group of volunteer musicians, multimedia team, and of course by our pastoral staff. With the onset of the Corona Virus, our choir graciously toughed it out for several months on zoom rehearsals, continuing to practice each week with the expectation that music-making and the music ministry would somehow resume in the near future. And thankfully it did: by about mid-June, we switched to a format of having each choir member take turns leading services as a soloist.

As Rev. Alejandro mentioned in his report, individual choir members continued to put creativity and love into their worship-leading by seeking out new music, and rehearsing efficiently but thoroughly. In addition to the vocal talents of each of the eight choir members that have been coming in to lead a service, I'm grateful for the volunteer work of all our volunteers, especially: Enrique Hernandez on the in-house soundboard, Maria Antonieta Luna for her constant work on the weekly powerpoint slideshows, Dirk Bolle and Osvaldo Rodriguez for their help with the internet sound, Corena Montoya for her dedication to operating the powerpoint, and Maria Antoniet Luna and Lulu Madrid for their help with the sound from off-site.

Furthermore, the choir and I have put together virtual choir videos for use in service using an app called Smule. We look forward to working together and with the church as a whole to find new ways of sharing and expressing God's love through music. We're grateful for all the other staff, volunteers, and ministry doing their part to keep the church going.

## Treasurer's Report submitted by Oyie Esguerra

See attached financial reports and documents for January 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020:

B. September 2020 Actual vs. Budget

C. September 2020 Balance Sheet

D. September 2020 Designated Fund Balances

E. September 2020 Designated Building Fund Transactions

1. For the month of September 2020, we had a net gain of \$2,707.15 (attachment A).

2. The overall net loss for 2020 is \$6,726.66 (attachment B).

3. The investment balance as of September 30, 2020 is \$342,577.52. We took out \$24,000 for the purpose of replacing and upgrading our visual broadcasting system.

4. Under the Mount Hollywood Congregational Church repayment plan, existing loan balance is now \$303,776.38 (attachment C).

5. See attachment D for other Designated Fund Balance summaries as of September 2020.

6. See attachment E for detailed transactions of the Designated Building Fund.

7. Our economic stimulus loan program called "Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)"

through Wells Fargo was approved for \$ 13,234.00 which was reflected in the July 2020 financial reports. We have not yet entered repayment and converted the loan to a grant.

8. Normally, church organizations are not required to file an income tax return. However, since we have applied and approved for a federal security grant, the Form 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) has to be filed since our total assets are greater than \$500,000. The normal filing deadline to file Form 990 is May 15, 2020, which was extended to July 15, 2020. We have filed for the years 2017 and 2018. For 2019, Form 990 was completed and mailed on July 14, 2020.

9. The Fictitious Business Name application via DBAstore.com was received by DBAstore.com sent to Los Angeles County Registrar-Record Office (LACRR) on 06/12/2020. We are still waiting for a certified copy back from LACRR and may take 5-6 weeks since LACRR has been closed since March 16, 2020 due to the pandemic.

10. The Board approved modest increases of 2% in compensation for our salaried staff that started in July 2020. The Board also approved an increase in hourly rate of pay for our Custodian from \$13.25 per hour to \$14.25 per hour to conform with the minimum wage laws in the City of Los Angeles effective July 1, 2020.

**Governance Report** submitted by Dean Coffey

In preparation for the Spring Congregational Meeting, the Board of Directors drafted a proposed amendment to the bylaws of Founders Metropolitan Community Church (aka MCCLA) allowing the church to conduct virtual meetings (if approved to be added to MCCLA By-laws; V.A.1):

The Board of Directors and any committee of the church may hold a telephone conference call or other electronic means of communication in which all participants can communicate with each other. Except for BOD executive sessions, all meetings by telephone/virtual means shall be open to the congregation and to the public. Voting is allowed by members of the church in good standing at Congregational Meetings.

However, the Board of Directors postponed the Spring Congregational Meeting indefinitely due to meeting restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Our plan is to consider the proposed bylaw for adoption at the Fall Congregational Meeting.

Our bylaws require that elections for members to the Board of Directors take place at our Spring Congregational Meeting. With the indefinite postponement of the meeting and the expiration of the terms of Roger Owens and Tony Martinez, the Board took the extraordinary step of appointing two new members, Tony Martinez and Dave Crocker, to the Board to fill these two positions beginning June 1, 2020 until the postponed Spring Congregational meeting and next election are held. The Board has decided that this next election will be held concurrent with the Fall Congregational Meeting on November 15, 2020. The Board wishes to thank Roger Owens for his two terms (six years) of exceptional service on the Board and for serving as Clerk of the Board. The Board is also grateful to Tony Martinez for his willingness to be reappointed to the Board of Directors after serving one term of three years and to stand for election at the Fall Congregational Meeting. Tony has served as the Chair for the Stewardship subcommittee of the Board and will continue in that role if re-elected.

At the first meeting following these changes, the Board of Directors elected the following officers as required in our bylaws: Vice Moderator Dean Coffey; Clerk Jennifer Nichols; and Treasurer Oyie Esguerra.

## **Stewardship Report** submitted by Tony Martinez

For the 2020 Stewardship Campaign "Taking The Next Step" we had 46 pledges for the amount of \$186,268.00. Compared to our 2019 Campaign we had 41 pledges totaling \$161,244.00. That is a total of 15% above last year. As of the 2020 3rd quarter, the total amount pledged so far is \$139,656.00 and we have a balance of \$45,052.00. We are right on track with 25% of our goal remaining.

## **Property/Facilities Report** submitted by Bob Stayton & Dean Coffey

***Installment Note on Church Property.*** At our December 2019 Board Meeting, the Board of Directors completed renegotiation of the installment note on the church property with Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church. The previous note required only a variable monthly interest payment of \$1,500 on the remaining \$315,000 owed on the property. The new note negotiated has a 15-year term to pay-off the remaining balance and requires a monthly payment of \$2,410 that includes principal and interest at a fixed 4.5% rate. Without the faithfulness and generosity of the members and friends of Founders MCC, this new arrangement would not be possible.

### ***Repairs and Maintenance.***

- December 2019 – Replaced the old fire hose and rack in the basement and repaired the swamp cooler on roof of main building that supports the fire suppression system over the commercial stove in the kitchen to comply with the City of Los Angeles Fire Code; and completed lead and asbestos testing needed in preparation for construction on the Nonprofit Security Grant.
- January 2020 - Property and Facilities Committees hosted a volunteer Clean-Up Day for the Ryland Annex and storage areas as well as the landscape in front of the church in January of this year that was well attended. Completed plumbing repair of vandalism in basement restrooms that clogged the main drain with paper.
- February 2020 – Replaced the bathroom window in the apartment above the preschool.
- March 2020 – Plumbing repair completed to clear three clogged toilets in church basement due to suspected vandalism.
- April – May 2020 – Completed major repair of plumbing in pipes between the preschool ceiling and the apartment above. Repair included testing popcorn ceiling for lead and asbestos, and abatement of the asbestos prior to opening the ceiling. Cost of abatement and ceiling repair was covered by church's property insurance after payment of \$2,300. deductible. Plumbing repair cost of \$7,305. was not covered by the church's insurance policy.
- June 2020 – Service completed on building air conditioners. Problem of power surge damage to one of the six air conditioners was diagnosed as the cause for the balcony HVAC system putting out both heat and cool air. Temporary fix was done, which will require a manual switch between a/c and heating when weather changes in winter and summer.
- July 2020 – the Board canceled the lease on the large Xerox copier in the front office and purchased a smaller Inkjet copier.
- ***Room Rentals.*** In March 2020, when the restrictions on gathering in public places went into effect, the recovery groups meeting in the church moved to meeting online and have not resumed meeting, resulting in a drop in rental revenue for the church.

(Continued...)

**Nonprofit Security Grant.** The committee has met as needed with our consultant KB Construction on our Nonprofit Security Grant, which was awarded to make security enhancements to our building. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is treating the church as an historic site and placing the additional requirement of review and approval of all plans that might affect the architectural style of the building to maintain the building's appearance for the community.

We have had one consultation with FEMA and are in need of one more door contractor bid to go back to FEMA to get approval for the project. We have two construction companies and one door manufacturer considering submission of bids for the doors of the church. The grant funds are being dispersed through the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), which has advised that FEMA has been granting one-year extensions for agencies that have begun their projects due to Covid-19 limitations on contractor availability.

### **Lay Delegate Report by Corena Montoya**

The lay delegates attended the last conference in July of 2019 which was 16 months ago. A few months ago, I believe in June, the lay delegates positions were put on hold as a result of a lack of congregational meeting due to Covid-19. I continue to be connected to several email lists that were set up for lay delegates and clergy for the UFMCC Denomination. I continue to pass vital information from our denomination to our local church at Founders MCC. I am also gladly serving as the office admin.

### **Music Ministry by Jane Syftestad**

Of course, since April, during the Covid-19 lockdown, the Founders Band, and Choir have been on hiatus, however the Music Department has been far from inactive. Specifically, as head of the Music Department, I have continued to:

- Plan the music for the weekly online services.
- Provide music for the Saturday night service.
- Solicit, review and prepare video from musicians around the world for use in our service.
- Perform music at the weekly service.
- Work with the band director, Garrett Wolfe directing his preparation of weekly music charts.
- Assisting and providing input to the Audio/Visual department concerning the installation of the video and sound equipment.
- Planning for the return to live music at services when the restrictions are lifted.
- Conduct weekly zoom meetings with band members to plan for future musical needs.

(Continued...)

In addition, the Founders Band has been involved in the following:

- Preparing the weekly charts for use at the service (by the Band Director).
- The band has performed and recorded backing tracks for use at the weekly service.
- The band has produced videos for use at special services such as the celebration of Rev Perry's birthday, and the anniversary.

We are excited about the future, with new sound and video equipment and the expanded possibilities we have discovered by using the technology to have musicians and singers from around the world provide content as well as the return of Founders Band to live performances to enhance the worship experience.

The members of Founders Band have asked me to express their gratitude to the FMCC board of directors for continuing to pay their stipends during hiatus to allow them to remotely continue to actively participate in the FMCC worship experience.

Blessings,  
Jane

## **Multimedia and Internet Ministry by Camille Araullo**

Even in the midst of the pandemic we are blessed to be able to continue to broadcast 2 services every Sunday, with the help of our committed volunteers. We have five volunteers each week who make broadcast and sound possible for these services. We also broadcast our once a month Saturday Night Interfaith service.

This year, we have seen our equipment steadily and rapidly deteriorate after many years of quality broadcasting and it was finally time to retire the old equipment. We were experiencing multiple dropped broadcasts and connection. Since June of this year we researched and reached out to Audio Visual company vendors to help us upgrade our system. After months of searching, we were able to identify TV ProGear as our equipment vendor (referred by one of our ICM church members). Our camera and broadcasting equipment has finally been upgraded to HD, ensuring that the quality of the broadcast will be clearer and more vibrant than it has been ever before. In this time of online worship and community connection, an upgraded multi-media equipment could not come any sooner.

(Continued...)

An upgrade of the church sound system would be on our wish list. This would complement and complete our goal of upgrading the entire church A/V system, to truly be able to achieve a sensory rich worship service.

Anticipating that online worship will continue even after the pandemic has passed, we would love to have more volunteers join the Multi-media team to continue this vital church ministry that allows us to reach out to people beyond our church walls.

I would love to have a new Multi-Media coordinator by next year to take the lead for this ministry. After having served for 5 years for a temporary arrangement of 3 months, I would like to give someone else the opportunity to volunteer.

### **Social Justice Ministry by Lucia Chappelle**

Social Justice Ministries has focused much energy this year on promoting participation in the 2020 Census and getting out the vote. Up-to-date information about the processes and changing circumstances has been published in the e-newsletter, announced during worship services and shared on our Facebook page (@FMCCJustice). We have also shared information about volunteer opportunities, such as polling place work and voter contact efforts, particularly with national faith organizations.

FMCC'ers have independently been called to take part in actions key to the issues of the day, from the crisis of racism to the COVID pandemic and its effects on our community. We're aware, for example, of Nicholas Roybal's participation in the Black Lives Matter demonstrations and Pamela Fairbanks' work in the tenants' rights movement. Several white FMCC'ers have expressed interest in learning more about approaches to anti-racism. Various texts and study guides are available, and we're looking for someone to lead such a workshop online.

The Sanctuary Task Force continues its hiatus, but interested volunteers should contact [justice@mccla.org](mailto:justice@mccla.org).

## **Food Bank Ministry Report** by Martin Miny

The Food Pantry achievement for 2020

**1st Quarter** - Provided Canned Goods, Frozen Items and Produce for 80 to 100 Families each Saturday.

**2nd Quarter** - Due to the CoronaVirus, to continue to be able to provide food for our customers we changed our delivery service to Kits and handed them out in front of the church.

**3rd Quarter** - Due to the CoronaVirus our Client numbers have expanded to 125.

**4th Quarter** - Client numbers have expanded to 150, even though we are using the same amount of volunteers.

The Food Bank which provides our pantry with all of its food, can no longer supply our food in kits, they do not have the humanpower to achieve this any longer. I order cases of food now and we will display the food on tables and control the number of people that have access at one time.

We will do what we can to provide food to the families that need us.

Martin Miny, Food Pantry Coordinator

## **Worship Coordination** by Don Mueller **November 6, 2020**

While we are still dealing with the virus and worshipping online, we have offered the opportunity for Worship Team members to assist with scripture reading and consecrating communion each Sunday. There is absolutely no pressure to volunteer, but for those who are comfortable and would like to assist on specific Sundays (with masks and safe distancing of course), then we are attempting to schedule as many members as possible. The scheduling is being done through email and pre-scheduled two months at a time. We are truly grateful for the incredible response we are continuing to receive in spite of the difficult times we are all dealing with.

## **Welcome / Usher Team** by Don Mueller **November 6, 2020**

The Usher Team is currently on hiatus until we are able to return to in-person services. All members of the Usher Team are encouraged to join with on-line services and Hospitality after. Many of the Usher Team are also part of Bayanihan which has continued to meet on-line through Zoom bi-weekly. The Usher Team looks forward to welcoming all our members back in person as soon as it is considered safe to do so.

## **Creative Team Report Update** by Larry Rodriguez

**November 1, 2020**

### **Overview**

After the last Creative Team Ministry Update in October, 2019, the Creative Team continued to work on worship services for the end of the calendar year. In January, the Creative Team held a long range planning session to plan through June. Little did we know that by March, 2020, all the plans that we had been working on would be upended by the Coronavirus Pandemic. With the constantly changing situation regarding what the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health allowed or prohibited us to do, it took a while to regain our footing. The move to a total online worship service experience required the Creative Team to reimagine what the worship service experience should be. By adding the Lead of the Media Team, Camille Araullo, we discovered ways of bridging the gap between inhouse and online experiences. We discovered that planning and producing quality online worship services is much more difficult and time consuming than purely onsite worship services. The challenge of aging A/V and broadcast equipment was very frustrating, but, with many thanks to Glen Payne and a dauntless Media Team, we now have a more reliable broadcast experience. As we become more familiar with the features of the new broadcast equipment, we hope to enhance and expand the online worship service experience, especially in the upcoming holiday season.

### **Major Accomplishments In The Past 12 Months:**

Planned and implemented: All Saints / Día de los Muertos Sunday, Transgender Day of Remembrance Commemoration Service, “Songs For The Ages” Series (Advent), transition from two morning worship services to one and “One Week To Live” Lent Series (March 1), transition to only online worship service (March 22), Easter Celebration Service, “Seen Jesus Lately” Series (April – May), Pentecost Sunday, Pride Month including a salute to Troy Perry and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CSW (June), Celebration of Troy Perry’s 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday including our first virtual choir performance, “Building” Series (September), 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebratory, “Time, Talent, Money To Build” Series (October).

There were some additional accomplishments not directly related to worship services for which the Creative Team took the lead: (1) explored how safely reestablish onsite worship services according to the guidelines of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, (2) polled the congregation on the possibility of an outdoor anniversary event, (3) commenced Sunday Online Hospitality (August 9), and (4) commenced Monthly Ministry Team Meetings (September 13).

(Continued...)

### **Major Goals For The Next 12 Months:**

In July, the Creative Team held a long-range planning session and mapped out worship service plans through the end of the year. On the advice of the County Department of Public Health, we are continuing to plan for online worship services only through the end of the year. If the situation changes for the better, it will be relatively easy to make the transition to onsite worship.

### **Needs and Challenges:**

The safety restrictions required by the County Department of Public Health present many logistical challenges. A maximum of 10 people are allowed in the Sanctuary for the broadcast, so the crew has multiple jobs. The crew is amazing in their dedication to getting the job done the best way possible. Although we have updated the aging broadcast equipment, the aging sound equipment continues to give us less than best experience. Your help in raising funds to replace this equipment is invaluable. Also, when the time comes that the Department of Public Health gives permission to worship onsite, we will need your complete cooperation as we comply with the guidelines they set for us. They only want to keep us safe.

### **Trans\*Unity Report by Ina Serene & Corena Montoya**

Trans\*Unity Ministry Report Oct 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

Our 2019-20 calendar was a bitter-sweet period due to the onset of COVID-virus in March of 2020. With hindsight it was fortunate that Trans\*Unity had our fund-raising success with yard-sales in 2019 in preparation for Student Awards in year 2020. Year-2019 ended with memories of collaboration with (a) Rev. Pat at the Trans\*Pride Resources Fair (June 2019), (b) Transgender Day of Remembrance events at FMCC (Nov2019) and LA's TDOR-event in Sunset Blvd Hotel, (c) Christmas party at the LA-LGBT Center, and (d) our Christmas party hosted in Pasadena by Desiree Downs (see attached page).

Trans\*Unity held their first monthly business of 2020 on the 26<sup>th</sup> January, with Ina and Amy stepping down in favor of a younger slate of officers. Duly elected were Ducky Jones (chairperson), Bret Hicks (treasurer), Corena Montoya (secretary), and Princess Dawn (member at large). Trans activities included hospital visitations, weekly yoga classes at the LA-LGBT Center, beach walks, and participation in ICM activities. We also celebrated at the wedding of Marquesa and Charles, officiated by Rev. Keith Mozingo.

Unfortunately, the pandemic hit in the Spring and activities were put on hold. In addition, mid-year our chairperson Ducky resigned to take a new position north of LA. Ina Serene became acting chairperson to prepare for the annual Resources Fair at the LGBT Center (see attached page). Trans\*Unity launched its first webpage on our Founders site in support of the 1st virtual Resource Faire at Trans\*Pride (LA-LGBT Center, June 2020).

<https://foundersmcc.org/trans-community/>

(Continued...)



FMCC Student Awards in Sept 2020 was also a virtual affair at Sunday's Service (23<sup>rd</sup> Aug 2020). Five college students were recognized for significant academic achievements and also their mission statements to support LGBT and GNC communities. Our hospitality Zoom sessions on Sundays are ongoing and we look forward to your continuing support.

Ina Serene took a break from Trans activities beginning this October and Amy stepped in as interim-chairperson for the remainder of 2020.

Yours affectionately, Ina Serene  
 Ex interim-chairperson

## **Bayanihan Ministry** by Camille Araullo

### **1. 2020 Accomplishments.**

The Bayanihan group continues to meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month and have been able to invite guest facilitators from the Philippines. We have been blessed with some new faces who have joined the group from the United Methodist denomination, and we are thrilled to learn alongside them.

### **2. Goals & Opportunities for 2021.**

I would like to facilitate a MCC history session with the group so that we are all familiar with the history of how our denomination began and the stories trials and triumphs of our founding leaders. I believe it will enrich everyone's worship experience knowing what had to be endured for our denomination to survive and thrive.

## **Kids Club Ministry** by Dean Coffey

The Kids Club ministry is on hiatus since the meeting restrictions mandated in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The team met once in September to consider restarting the ministry remotely or by mail. Preparations are still being made to implement this plan. Special thanks to Larry Rodriguez for hosting the ministry team by Zoom on the second Sunday of each month after the 10 a.m. service.

## **Archives Committee** by Lucia Chappelle and Larry Rodriguez

The Archives Committee has used this time of social distancing to further our work on digitizing and organizing materials for:

- A searchable online database,
- Uploading and identifying more uncatalogued photos
- Developed a prototype for metadata tagging of archive files to make them searchable

Expansion of storage capacity needed:

- Cloud service for photos and documents
- Redundant hard drives for videos
- Supported by committee fundraising and member donations

We have also contributed to displays and video presentations for Pride Month, Rev. Perry's birthday and Anniversary Sunday.