

**Interim Pastor Report
Congregational Meeting
November 21, 2021**

I am blessed to be serving King of Peace MCC as your Interim Pastor. It has been a busy nine months and we have accomplished much during our time together. The next nine months will be filled with moving to a new location, rediscovering who God is calling KOP to be, and calling a new Settled Pastor.

Worship

- † Held 3 Memorial Services
- † Baptized 1 Person
- † Received 8 People into Membership
- † Reinstated 2 People into Membership
- † Offered Drive-By Ashes for Ash Wednesday and an Online Service
- † Offered a Maundy Thursday Healing Experience
- † Live Streamed Good Friday and Easter Services
- † Held Sunrise Service in the Parking Lot
- † Held Live Streamed Services Only until May 23rd
- † Celebrated Pentecost by Offering In-Person Worship and Online
- † Celebrated Pride Month
- † Celebrated the Ordination of Rev. Ray Simms
- † Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month
- † Began Our Stewardship Program – Covenant Keepers

Staff/Administrative

- ◇ Jeremiah Cummings serves as our Director of Music and Communications. He oversees our music for Sunday mornings and has begun weaving in instruments and singers as we have lessened our Covid protocols. He also provides an uplifting First Wednesday Worship opportunity that is viewed on Facebook. In addition to his musical duties, Jeremiah creates and sends our KOP Matters weekly and manages our Facebook page. He serves on our Worship Team and coordinates our efforts with the Tech Team. He has provided the much-needed continuity of staff in this time of transition for KOP. I know he was tired of hearing me call his name those first months but always answered with, "How can I help?"
- ◇ Bev Christofel retired as the Church Administrator on April 15th, and we celebrated her with a staff gathering.
- ◇ Hired Melanie Vannozzi as our Church Administrator on May 1st. Melanie oversees our financial data, membership data and coordinates our monthly calendar. She is also responsible for the day-to-day management of the

building and church business. Melanie is a great asset to our staff, and we are blessed to have her at KOP.

◇ Rev. Craig Cranston was pivotal in caring for the congregation during Covid. His role on the staff provided stability and support in this time of transition. Rev. Craig resigned at the end of June as the Pastor of Congregational Care but continues to be connected to KOP through our Game Show Series and Program Offerings.

◇ Rev. Lorraine Brock recently moved back to the St. Pete area and has joined the staff of KOP once again. She is serving part-time as the Director of Congregational Care and the H.O.T. Ministry. God's timing was perfect, and her ministry gifts are just what we needed. Rev. Lorraine's spirit brings comfort and care to those in need. Her renewed presence on our staff and in worship is uplifting and much appreciated.

◇ Rev. Ray Simms, our newly ordained clergy, has joined the staff part-time as the Director of Stewardship and Volunteers. He will be coordinating follow-up activities for our Stewardship Program and matching volunteers with our ministries. Rev. Ray has a deep love for God and a desire to serve God's people. His passion is inspirational, and he is an added blessing to KOP and our staff.

◇ Dean Gray serves KOP as a part-time Facility Caretaker. Whenever he sees rain clouds over the church, he is there making sure our buckets don't overflow. During the rainy season, Dean spent most of his time emptying buckets and mopping the tarps. He keeps the church grounds and does maintenance and cleaning when needed. He is willing to do whatever it takes to keep KOP up and running.

◇ Tim Uber is a volunteer staff person. He manages our Tech Team and keeps us up and running on Sundays, as well as other services and events. The quality of our broadcast is dependent on 4-5 people each Sunday. Tim's skills in technology along with his wonderful team of volunteers keeps us as one of the best online services available. Tim also manages our website. The staff has been in dialogue about the needed updates on our website and you can look forward to those soon.

Board of Directors

◇ Susan Burhouse and I applied and received our 2nd round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans. We also applied and received forgiveness for both the 2020 and 2021 PPP loans.

◇ The board voted to change accounting firms at the end of June. Richard Commons was not meeting our needs, so we employed Metzler Advisory as our new accountants.

- ◇ We held a Forum in August to provide an update on our finances, the sale of the building, the search for a new facility and the overall state of the church. Our plan is to continue holding forums to keep the congregation better informed throughout the year.
- ◇ The board has had numerous meetings to secure the best plan moving forward for KOP. God has been guiding us every step of the journey and we will have some exciting news to announce at the Congregational Meeting.
- ◇ One of the ongoing issues the board has had to manage is the leaking roof. Jeanne Scanlon and Dean have put in tireless hours to ensure the least damage to our building.
- ◇ The board also suggested that for the safety of the staff we move the offices off the third floor. There were many volunteers that helped to make that happen.

Outreach

- ◇ Feeding the Homeless
- ◇ Participated in the Interfaith Food Drive
- ◇ Amazing Grace Race
- ◇ Attended the Pride Flag Raising Event
- ◇ Attended the LGBTQ Chamber Annual Pride in Business Luncheon as Ian Gomez's Guest
- ◇ Drag Queen Bingo at Punky's
- ◇ Pet Blessing in the Park
- ◇ Susan McGrath and Ian Gomez brought our new Mayor, Ken Welch to worship at KOP
- ◇ Staffed a booth at Halloween on Central sponsored by Come Out St. Pete

Miscellaneous

- ◇ Passed our Fire Inspection with help from Katrina Tucker's crew from Turning Points and our awesome staff
- ◇ Celebrated Rev. Candace's Retirement and Ministry with KOP
- ◇ Participated in Name That Hymn – there seems to be a crown on my desk
- ◇ Participated on the panel for Match Game with MCC Tampa
- ◇ Showed a pre-screening of "The Eyes of Tammy Faye"
- ◇ Held our first Moving Sale – Thank you to Dwayne, Angel and all the volunteers for organizing this
- ◇ Participated in Family Feud with our sibling churches – MCC Tampa, COTT and SunCoast MCC

This is probably more information than you would want or expect in this report. But I think you should know how much folks are really doing to make

sure KOP is the best it can be. All these services, events and activities take teamwork. As we say at our staff meetings – “Teamwork makes the Dreamwork” and it does.

The months ahead will lead us to a time to say goodbye to a building that has housed many precious memories for so many years. It will be a very emotional time and we will need to give an extra measure of understanding and kindness to each other as we go through this time. At the same time, there will also be the excitement of moving to somewhere new that will provide opportunities for different ministries that we have not even imagined yet.

I hold fast to Jeremiah 29:11 that tells us, “For I know the plans I have for you”, declares God, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” I believe God has some amazing things in store for KOP and is throwing open the floodgates of blessings as we remain faithful.

In Christ’s Service,
Rev. Renae Phillips
Interim Pastor, King of Peace MCC