



MCC Brisbane Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- The 38th birthday of Metropolitan Community Churches, October 8
- Induction of 9 new members of MCC Brisbane, September 3rd evening service
- Retiring Regional Elder, Rev. Elder Debbie Martin farewelled at Sub-Regional Conference

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

in October 6th Metropolitan Community Churches will be 38 years old. Have you ever stopped to think about the modern miracle that is Metropolitan Community Churches?

One man- Troy Perry – heard God's voice and said yes – yes I will start a church which is affirming of gay and lesbian people. God had more than likely called others in the past to start such a church. God had probably asked many within the mainstream churches to work to make their denomination gay affirming too. But the person who said yes to God was Troy Perry. And that **yes** began what is now a worldwide church affirming of all persons as loved by God – and especially working to tell the glbtqq communities of God's love for us.

What if Troy Perry had said no?

God could have gone on asking until God

found someone who would say yes, but, MCC as we know it today would not have existed – and I for one am very grateful that MCC does exist and Troy Perry said yes to God.

What about us? What is God asking of us? And what are we answering?

It is very easy to float along with the status quo and leave the work to others. It is very easy to float along and leave the giving of time, talents and money to others also. And God will go on asking until enough people say yes – BUT – I thank God for Troy Perry and for all the people who have said 'yes, here am I, I will do it'. Because of those people I had a church which was there for me when I was 'coming out'. I pray there will always be enough people in Brisbane MCC who are saying yes to God – so that the young people growing up glbtqq and the older people now

finding the insight and the courage to 'come out' will have a church to turn to also.

What is God asking you to do? Are you saying "yes" or are you turning a deaf ear and hoping someone else will do it?

Please join us on Sunday October 8th when we celebrate the 38th birthday of Metropolitan Community Churches at the 7pm service.

**Anne James
Pastor
MCC Brisbane**



AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Sunday 24th September at 3pm. This will be followed by a pot-luck tea and the evening service. All are welcome at the AGM though only members of MCC Brisbane can vote.

Please consider whether you might be able to contribute something to the life of the church by sitting on the Board of Directors (BOD). Both Adrian Buganey (currently lay-delegate) and Terry Heiner (currently treasurer) are standing down

from the BOD this September. We therefore need at least two new BOD members, and it would be good if we had 3 or 4 new BOD members. If we had enough BOD members to have an understudy to the positions of clerk and treasurer then

should either of those people be sick or away the work can continue more efficiently. Anne would love to anyone interested in standing for a position on the BOD.

Membership

On Sunday 3rd September we will be receiving into the membership of MCC Brisbane approx 9 persons who have attended classes and who have indicated that they wish to become members. This will happen at the evening service on Sunday 3rd September. Let's make sure there is a big turnout of current members to welcome these new members to

Crave Celebration Services

**Give me a sense of
humour, Lord,
Give me the grace to
see a joke,
To get some
humour out of life,
And pass it on to
other folk**

Crave Celebration Services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at the 7pm service. These services are of a Pentecostal style with lots of bright singing, Holy Communion using little glasses and a bright and dynamic message. This style of

worship is not everyone's 'cup of tea' but we have a significant number of people in our congregation who come from a Pentecostal background, and it is only fair that they have a service which speaks to their needs - Metropolitan Community

Churches place great importance on inclusivity, and Crave Celebration Services are one of the ways in which we at MCC Brisbane seek to be inclusive.



The church has a library which is housed at Anne and Iris's place in Morningside. You can borrow from a selection of books Iris takes to church each week, you can ask Iris to bring a/ some particular book/s and /or videos to church for bor-

Library

rowing (there is a catalogue available for you to peruse and decide what you want) , or you can arrange a time when you can visit 40 Redfern St Morningside and browse through the library to decide what you might want to borrow. We have a

good selection of books on spirituality, what the Bible really says about homosexuality, and both gay and lesbian romance and mystery and glbt biographies.

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday 2nd September – Reflection Day

Sunday 3rd September – reception of membership

Weekend 15th to 17th September- sub-regional conference in Sydney

Sunday 24th September – AGM followed by pot-luck tea and Crave Celebration Service

Sunday 8th October – celebrating the 38th birthday of Metropolitan Community Churches

Sub-Regional Conference

On the weekend of 15th - 17th September MCC Good Shepherd Sydney will be celebrating their 20th anniversary. Rev Elder Debbie Martin will be present and there will be a sub-regional conference on that

weekend also. Anne and Iris will be attending, as will Robert (our clerk), others are welcome – please speak with Anne or Iris if you want any more information about this weekend. This will be

our chance to say farewell to Rev Elder Debbie Martin who is retiring from the position of regional elder for region 1.

Bible Studies and Theological Reading Group

Both of these have been put in moth balls because peoples lives are so busy and numbers have fallen. We have however had a request for Bible Study to start again – should this interest you please let the pastors know.

SisterSpeak

SisterSpeak is a group for all who identify as female. SisterSpeak meet monthly usually on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We alternate between social function and discussion on a topic of a spiritual or Biblical nature. In September SisterSpeak will be

joining in with the church Reflection Day at Albion on the 2nd September, and then in October the group will be going ten-pin bowling. If you want to be on the list to be notified of SisterSpeak activities speak with Claire, Iris or Anne.



MCC BRISBANE CONTACT



Rev Anne James – pastor and Rev Iris sagers – assistant pastor – can be contacted on (07) 3891 1388.

Their Emails are spaganne@inet.net.au and isagers@inet.net.au

The church address is PO Box 317 Fortitude valley Qld 4006.

Anne's mobile is 0401 434 564.

MCC Brisbane Services

We have a 9-30am Home Group each Sunday morning at 40 Redfern St Morningside (around the side and down the back under the house). This is a more informal style service – All Welcome.

We have a more traditional style service on the first, second, third and fifth Sundays of each month at 7pm at Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove, and on the fourth Sunday of each month we have a pentecostal style service 7pm at the Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove. All Welcome at any of these.

Zero Tolerance Policy

MCC churches have zero tolerance for sexual harassment or predatory behaviour of any kind.

At MCC Brisbane we want all people to feel safe, and we will do all in our power to see that no sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour happens at any church function.

We have a risk management policy which covers this and other matters and is available for perusal before and after church – just ask the greeters to show it to you.

Please feel free to speak with the pastors or any member of the BOD should you experience sexual harassment, bullying or predatory behaviour at any church function.