





Our congregation is but one chapter in the story of the Church, the Body of Christ. We are a group of Christians on a journey, learning to live into our spirituality, while affirming our bodies, genders and sexualities. We don't all believe exactly the same things. Yet in the midst of our diversity, we build a community, grounded in God's radically inclusive love for all people.

Our chapter begins when God says to us:
"Come, taste, and see."

Metropolitan Community Church Brisbane is part of the worldwide Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). Founded by Rev Troy Perry in Los Angeles USA in 1968, Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) is an international Protestant Christian denomination with about 222 congregations in 37 countries. MCC welcomes all into its congregations, however the church has a specific outreach to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT+) families and communities. Worldwide, MCC has been a leading force in the development of queer theology and one of the first proponents of marriage equality. MCC pastors performed the first same-sex weddings in the USA and the UK in 1969. MCC's prophetic witness has forever changed the face of Christianity, and helped to forward the international struggle for LGBT rights and equality.



At MCC Brisbane (Brissy or Brisvegas!) , you will find a fellowship who are passionate about Jesus' salvation and the love of God, and are not afraid of diversity and independent thought. Everyone is welcome to attend our church, make new friends, share in our fellowship, and receive pastoral care.

Like the early church, we are a rainbow congregation. We believe that all people should have equal access and the opportunity to live life to the fullest, free from discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, age, physical challenge, health status, gender identification, nationality or economic situation.



In mid-2015, the congregation moved to New Farm, an inner suburb of Brisbane and we now worship at the Uniting Church (52 Merthyr Road, New Farm.) Our Sunday evening service features contemporary music and enthusiastic singing, preaching and Communion. The service features spontaneity and encourages congregational participation in all areas. We have a fantastic worship team, and a variety of members of the congregation lead us in prayer, read the scriptures, lead communion and preach on a regular basis.

Our current membership is 30 and rising, but close to 50 people regularly attend and take part in our services on Sunday's. Many people travel long distances to enjoy the fellowship and worship that is on offer.

MCC Brisbane today moves courageously beyond the confines of what is accepted by the majority, and continually touches the lives of those in need.

We believe that God is working to reconcile the world with the divine ideal. This encourages us to go on building an inclusive community that celebrates the diversity of God's creation. MCC Brisbane has always expressed hope and we are confident that the church will continue to grow and carry the message of God's love, especially to the LGBTIQ community.



Brief History

MCC Brisbane began as Christ Community Church in 1974 and became the Metropolitan Community Church Brisbane, part of the UFMCC, after the visit of Rev Troy Perry in 1975. MCC Brisbane has played an influential role in the gay rights movement, for example through its participation in gay law reform lobbying and demonstrations, assistance during the AIDS crisis and in the organisation of major LGBT activities, such as World AIDS Day and Brisbane Pride Festival events. MCC Brisbane is actively working towards marriage equality legislation in Australia.

Recent pastors include Rev. Ivor Holmans and Rev. Tim Collier. Ivor Holmans occupied the roles of Worship Coordinator and Pastoral Leader continuously from June 1982 until he was licensed as clergy in February 1995. Ivor was then Pastor of MCC Brisbane until May 2003. Tim Collier succeeded Ivor from May 2003 to May 2004, when health problems forced his early retirement. In November 2004 Rev. Anne James was appointed as Pastor, with her life-partner Rev. Iris Saggars taking on the position of Assistant Pastor. Anne was ordained in August 2000, and had previously held the position of Assistant Pastor MCC Brisbane working in the Rockhampton Outreach of MCC Brisbane. Iris (prior to coming to Rockhampton in August 2002) was an Assistant Pastor at MCC Auckland NZ. Iris was licensed as clergy in August 1994.

Since its inception MCC Brisbane has held regular worship services at a number of locations around Brisbane.

For a period of about 7 years, the church was led by Rev Leigh Neighbour and his husband Dennis Moran. The pair met at the MCC church in Auckland, New Zealand, in January 1980. They were finally able to celebrate their marriage back in Auckland in January 2014. During Rev Leigh's leadership, the church grew numerically and spiritually. Rev Leigh retired in June 2015 and was appointed as Pastor Emeritus for MCC Brisbane.



Governance

MCC Brisbane is registered as an Incorporated Association as required by the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* (Queensland). Administrative leadership of MCC Brisbane is provided by a Board of Directors consisting of:

- Pastor
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Lay Delegate
- Board Members including youth and women's representation

The congregation elects volunteers for these position each year at the Annual General Meeting. The board has responsibility for all legal, physical and financial matters of the church. The Pastor, under the direction of the Board, oversees day-to-day operations of church activities.

