Welcome to Founders Metropolitan Community Church
Membership/Inquirer’s Class

Welcome & Prayer

Overview of our time together

Our Spiritual Location / Sharing of our Personal Stories

Our Fellowship / Denomination

Our Church (Founders Metropolitan Community Church)

Membership: The Process and What it means

Our Ministries & Finding Your Passion

Forms

Close in Prayer
Our Core Values

**Inclusion**
Love is our greatest moral value and resisting exclusion is a primary focus of our ministry. We want to continue to be the conduits of a faith where everyone is included in the family of God, and where all parts of our being are welcomed at God’s table.

**Community**
Offering a safe and open community for people to worship, learn and grow in their faith, is our deep desire. We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work in our world that God has called us to do.

**Spiritual Transformation**
Providing a message of liberation; from the oppressive religious environment of our day, or, to those experiencing God for the first time, is what motivates and guides our ministry. We believe that when people are invited to experience God through the life and ministry of Christ, lives will be transformed.

**Social Action**
Seeking to talk less and do more, we are committed to resisting the structures that oppress people and stand with those who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems, being guided always by our commitment to Global Human Rights.

---

Founders MCC Mission Statement

Founders Metropolitan Community Church (FMCC) is a prophetic, liberating and progressive Christian community of faith that honors, values and welcomes all people. We are rooted in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex communities. We preach a relevant, vibrant and scripture-based message that embodies and celebrates everyone’s spirituality and sexuality. We challenge each other to make our lives count, as we invite everyone to be transformed in mind, body and spirit. From a place of trust, wholeness and holiness, we reach out as the hands, feet, and heart of Christ through acts of justice and compassion to make a difference in our world.

~ Revised June 2003

---

Our Vision for the Future

*Metropolitan Community Churches are on a bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God’s inclusive love for all people and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality.*

Just as Jesus did, we are called to:

- **Do justice**, show kindness, and live humbly with God. (Micah 6:8)
- **Explore** life’s questions with open hearts and minds.
- **Raise our voices** in sacred defiance against religious (and political or systemic) exclusion.
- **Reach out** to those with no hope.
- **Lift up** new generations of remarkable, far-reaching spiritual activists.
Our Strategic Plan

*Founders Metropolitan Community Church also has chosen to follow the Strategic Plan as laid out by our Denomination. The full plan can be found on the Denomination’s website: www.mccchurch.org*

*The main points of the plan are included below:*

**Marketing**
Increase the effectiveness with which we present the powerful, life-transforming message of Metropolitan Community Churches.

**Justice**
Emerge as more faithful and influential advocates for liberation from all forms of oppression and injustice in the world.

**Evangelism**
Launch a new era of outreach and inclusion in FMCC that results in consistently adding new people to our global community of faith.

**Resources**
Develop and deliver the relevant and useful resources most needed by our church to successfully carry out our mission and ministry.

**Finances**
Build a culture of generosity in FMCC that leads to a strong base of human and financial resources to assure the success of our mission and ministry.

Please visit our website for our by-laws and other administrative information

**FMCC’s Website:** www.mccla.org
Our Beliefs, Sacraments and Rites of Metropolitan Community Church

Our beliefs:

Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. Jesus Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian Church in every age and in every land.

Founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches moves in the mainstream of Christianity.

Our faith is based upon the principles outlined in the historic creeds: Apostles and Nicene.

We believe:
In one triune God, omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, of one substance and of three persons: God, our Parent-Creator; Jesus Christ, the only begotten son of God, God in flesh, human; and the Holy Spirit, God as our Sustainer.

That the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, showing forth God to every person through the law and the prophets, and finally, completely and ultimately on earth in the being of Jesus Christ.

That Jesus...the Christ...historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before this writing, is God incarnate, of human birth, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with God, Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God’s image.

That the Holy Spirit is God making known God’s love and interest to all people. The Holy Spirit is God, available to and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in God’s keeping.

Every person is justified by grace to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God’s gift of grace, as was declared by our Savior. Such grace is not earned, but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the community of the faithful to a life of prayer; to seek genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts; and to a committed life of Christian service.

The Church serves to bring all people to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the Scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.
Sacraments  *This Church embraces two holy Sacraments:*

**Baptism** by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God’s service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God’s own Child.

**Holy Communion** is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign: This is my body...this is my blood. (Matthew 26:26-28). All who believe, confess and repent and seek God’s love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ’s sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ’s resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

Rites  
*The Rites of the Church as performed by its duly authorized ministers shall consist of the following:*

The **Rite of Ordination** is the setting apart of duly qualified persons for the professional ministry of this Church. It is evidenced by the laying on of hands by authorized ordained clergy or UFMCC Elders, pursuant to these Bylaws.

The **Rite of Attaining Church Membership** shall be conducted by the Pastor or Interim Pastoral Leader before a local congregation at any regular worship service. In accordance with criteria established by the local church, a baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the local church group through a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through affirmation of faith.

The **Rite of Holy Union/Rite of Holy Matrimony** is the spiritual joining of two persons in a manner fitting and proper by a duly authorized clergy, Interim Pastoral Leader of the church, or UFMCC Elders. After both persons have been counseled and apprised of their responsibilities one toward the other, this rite of conferring God’s blessing may be performed.

The **Rite of Funeral or Memorial Service** is to be fittingly conducted by the ministers of the Church for the deceased.

The **Rite of Laying on of Hands** or prayer for the healing of the sick in mind, body or spirit is to be conducted by the ministers of the Church, at their discretion, upon request.

The **Rite of Blessing** may be conducted by the ministers of the Church for persons, things and relationships, when deemed appropriate by the minister. This includes the dedication of a church building to the glory of God.

*(The Doctrine, Sacraments and Rites can be found in MCC’s By-laws on their website)*
Founders Metropolitan Community Church:

A Quick History

Oct. 6, 1968: MCC founded by Rev. Troy D. Perry in Huntington Park, California
1979: Church at 22nd & Union purchased and occupied; first UFMCC General Conference held.
Jan. 27, 1973: Building at 22nd & Union destroyed by a fire of “suspicious origin.”
1974: MCCLA purchases and occupies the former Belasco Theater at 11th & Hill downtown.
1987: Hill Street building sold and Washington & La Cienega property in Culver City purchased.
1996: Santa Monica Boulevard property purchased jointly with UFMCC and occupied.

Pastors:

1976 – 1978 Rev. Donald Pederson
1985 – 1986 Elder Larry Rodriguez

Locations:

1968 Troy Perry’s home, Huntington Park
1968 The Women’s Club, Huntington Park
1968 Embassy Auditorium, Los Angeles
1968 First Methodist Church, Los Angeles
1970 – 1973 22nd & Union Street, Los Angeles
1973 Aquarius Theater, Hollywood
1973 American Legion Hall, Hollywood
1974 – 1987 11th & Hill Street, Los Angeles
1987 – 1994 Washington & La Cienega, Culver City
1994 Sound Studio, Culver City
1994 Beth Chayim Chadashim, Los Angeles
1996 – 2008 8714 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood
2008 – 2012 4953 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles
2012 – present 4607 Prospect Avenue, Los Angeles
# Inclusive Language with Reference to God

Recognizing that our language is limited and limiting, it is important to counteract those limitations by using many and varied images and metaphors as we attempt to speak about God. Our language about God should be as intentionally diverse and varied as is that of the Bible and our theological tradition. We suggest that as you lead worship you consider using some of the following terms and phrases (or be creative and come up with your own) when speaking to and about God. (This list was compiled by Drew Theological School’s Task Force on Inclusive Language in 1981 and was adapted for use at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1986).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All-powerful God</th>
<th>Friend of the poor</th>
<th>God of holy love</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almighty Giver of Good</td>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>God of hopes and joys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Answer to all mysteries</td>
<td>Generous Provider of all Good Gifts</td>
<td>God of Israel’s past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awesome God</td>
<td>Giver of all good things</td>
<td>God of life and death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awesome One</td>
<td>Giver of every good and perfect gift</td>
<td>God of light and sun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binder of Wounds</td>
<td>Giver of health and salvation</td>
<td>God of many deliverances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brightness of faithful souls</td>
<td>Giver of life and health</td>
<td>God of peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort of sufferers</td>
<td>Giver of love</td>
<td>God of power and splendor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companion of the lonely</td>
<td>Giver of peace</td>
<td>God of prophets and apostles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Source of all being</td>
<td>God arrayed in justice</td>
<td>God of steadfastness and encouragement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator and Preserver of all humanity</td>
<td>God of ages past and future</td>
<td>God of all righteousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator of all</td>
<td>God of all being</td>
<td>God of the beginning, God of the end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator of goodness and beauty</td>
<td>God of all comfort</td>
<td>God of the loving heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creator of the light</td>
<td>God of all compassion</td>
<td>God of the morning and noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delight of the Ages</td>
<td>God of all creatures</td>
<td>God of the spirits of all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire of Nations</td>
<td>God of all flesh</td>
<td>God of this day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Father-Mother God</td>
<td>God of all generations</td>
<td>God of unchangeable power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal God our Answer</td>
<td>God of all power</td>
<td>God of wonders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Keeper</td>
<td>God of all the world</td>
<td>God our Companion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal One</td>
<td>God of all times and places</td>
<td>God our Helper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Ruler</td>
<td>God of Earth and air</td>
<td>God surrounded by glory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Source of Love</td>
<td>God of earthquake, wind, and fire</td>
<td>God Who art perfect love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eternal Spirit of...</td>
<td>God of eternal might</td>
<td>Gracious Giver of knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Living God</td>
<td>God of forgiveness and understanding</td>
<td>Gracious God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Loving God</td>
<td>God of freedom and right</td>
<td>Great God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faithful God</td>
<td>God of grace and glory</td>
<td>Great God of power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First and the Last</td>
<td>God of Heavenly powers</td>
<td>Great God of Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of all Holiness</td>
<td>God of holiness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of Life</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of Light and Truth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fountain of Wisdom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope of all the ends of the Earth</td>
<td>Mind that unifies all creation</td>
<td>Source of all true joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge Eternal</td>
<td>Most merciful God</td>
<td>Source of blessing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incognito God</td>
<td>One and Eternal God of time and space</td>
<td>Source of Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inexhaustible God</td>
<td>Only One</td>
<td>Source of deliverance and help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Ruler of the world</td>
<td>Our Creator and Our teacher</td>
<td>Source of eternal light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Healer of body and soul</td>
<td>Our Refuge and Our Strength</td>
<td>Source of freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guardian of our lives</td>
<td>Our Source</td>
<td>Source of good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide of the meek</td>
<td>Power that brings healing</td>
<td>Source of health and strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide and inspiration of humanity</td>
<td>Power that saves</td>
<td>Source of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guide of humanity</td>
<td>Power that shields</td>
<td>Source of peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healer of the sick</td>
<td>Proclaimer of justice</td>
<td>Source of mercy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart that inspires in us a vision of justice &amp; love</td>
<td>Protector of all who trust</td>
<td>Source of salvation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearts Delight</td>
<td>Pure and upright One</td>
<td>Source of strength</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helper of all persons</td>
<td>Radiance of faithful souls</td>
<td>Source of truth and law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helper of the weak</td>
<td>Radiant and glorious God</td>
<td>Sovereign God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden God</td>
<td>Redeemer and Deliverer</td>
<td>Sovereign of peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High and Holy One</td>
<td>Redeemer of Israel</td>
<td>Staff and support of the righteous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infinite God</td>
<td>Redeemer of the oppressed</td>
<td>Shepherd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspiration to goodness</td>
<td>Redeeming God</td>
<td>Steadfast and loving One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judge of all humanity</td>
<td>Repose of the dead</td>
<td>Strength of our life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeper of the covenant</td>
<td>Righteous God</td>
<td>Strength of the weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeper of our souls</td>
<td>Righteous One of all generations</td>
<td>Strength of those who labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of all who live</td>
<td>Rock of all creation</td>
<td>Strong God of truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of mortals</td>
<td>Rock of our salvation</td>
<td>Support of the innocent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of the universe</td>
<td>Rock of our life</td>
<td>Sustainer of all the worlds that are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life of the world</td>
<td>Ruler of all peoples on Earth</td>
<td>Teacher of peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light of all seeing</td>
<td>Ruler of all creation</td>
<td>The one and only light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light of the faithful</td>
<td>Ruler of the universe</td>
<td>The Sun of the world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lover of peace</td>
<td>Searcher of hearts</td>
<td>Will that gives us power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lover souls</td>
<td>Shelter from the storm</td>
<td>World’s Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maker of all things</td>
<td>Shield of our fathers and mothers</td>
<td>Wondrous Fashioner and Sustainer of life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maker of Heaven and Earth</td>
<td>Shining Glory</td>
<td>Refuge of those who put their trust in God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maker of light</td>
<td>Source of all existence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maker of man and woman in God’s image</td>
<td>Source of all health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mighty God</td>
<td>Source of all power</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mighty Redeemer</td>
<td>Source of all that we have and are</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Membership Process and Policies

**Process for Becoming a Member**

*In order for someone to become a member, you will need to complete the following process:*

- ☑ Attend a membership class
- ☑ Agree and sign the Covenant for Members
- ☑ Complete the registration and stewardship pledge forms
- ☑ Register to participate in a ministry
- ☑ Attend Blessing of New Members

**Process for People who transfer from another MCC Church**

- ☑ Agree and sign the Covenant for Members
- ☑ Complete the membership registration steward pledge forms
- ☑ Register to participate in a ministry
- ☑ Attend Blessing of New Members

**Process for an Active Member to become Inactive**

*In order for a member to become inactive the following events have occurred:*

- ☑ You request it
- ☑ The member has no record of giving for one year
- ☑ The member has not been involved in a ministry for one year

**Process to Members to change from Inactive to Active Member Status**

*Any member who has been in an inactive status for over one year will need to do the following to have the membership re-activated:*

- ☑ Request to be moved to active status
- ☑ Agree and sign the Covenant for Members
- ☑ Complete the membership registration and stewardship pledge forms
- ☑ Register to participate in a ministry
Communication Covenant

As a member of Founders Metropolitan Community Church, each of us must recognize that communication skills are essential to efficient, effective and orderly operation of the church. Therefore, each member agrees to enter into a covenant between other members in individual conversations, group meetings and written communications. By seeking membership, we agree to uphold this covenant.

1. Admit and accept responsibilities for one’s self, one’s own thoughts, attitudes and behaviors.
2. Respect one’s self and others.
3. Do not attempt to articulate another person’s thoughts, attitudes or positions without their prior invitation. Do not make accusations.
4. If a problem arises with another person, always go directly to that person first to resolve the problem.
5. Deal directly with others. Be loving and caring, yet frank.
6. When a problem arises, solve it immediately. Don’t wait.
7. Be sensitive to differences of all types that exist between people. These include but are not limited to: race, gender, age, ethnicity, physical ability, economic status, nationality, and sexual/affectional preferences.
8. Ask for an explanation of what a person means by what they have just said if you are not sure, rather than forming an incorrect conclusion.
9. Listen and hear what others have to say. Try to put aside preconceptions or judgments and be in the present moment. Do not interrupt when another person is speaking.
10. Be considerate and do not take more than your share of speaking time.
11. Keep all participants at equal levels of responsibility for the outcome of the interchange.
12. Use no abusive language when dealing with others. This includes name calling, insults or harsh scolding, although being emotional about one’s own feelings may occur.
13. Don’t gossip. Listen to someone else’s needs or do something about a problem within your domain, but don’t be a part of spreading rumors about an absent person.
14. No back biting, that is, talking maliciously about an absent person.
15. Admit when an impasse is reached and no further productive interchange can occur. Terminate the communication for that time, rather than trying to get one’s own way.
16. Make a definite agreement about when you will discuss a problem if you cannot discuss it when approached.
17. Be available to listen to anyone that may have something to discuss.
18. Do not negate, deny or invalidate another’s feelings.
Covenant to Our Members

This Covenant to our members is a commitment from the Pastor and the congregants in how we will grow together as a church which embraces the love of Jesus Christ and God.

As a Church, we:

1. **Provide powerful worship experiences.**

2. **Provide education that will facilitate the development of your faith and spiritual journey.**
   A person on a faith and spiritual journey goes through several stages of realization and development. These stages are as follows:
   
   **Awareness:** You have become aware and are experiencing God in your daily life. You are wanting to understand and feel God’s love for you.
   
   **Growth:** You are growing in your relationship with God. You are becoming more self-aware of the Spiritual Gifts that God has given you.
   
   **Sharing:** You are sharing your spiritual journey with others. For example, you have started daily meditations, prayers and healing.
   
   **Listening:** You are listening to God and following God’s direction for you. You are becoming aware of what you are called to do with God. You have a sense of purpose and self-worth in life.
   
   **Gifts:** There are many gifts that God has given you and you want to give back to others. You are co-creating with God to make the world a better place. You are giving your talents through ministry and tithing financial support in order to reach out to others who are seeking God.
   
   **Commitment:** You are committing to serving God through the ministry and mission work which reflects God’s love in all that you do.

3. **Provide excellent “responsive” pastoral care.**

4. **Provide you with support through the programs that you participate in.**
   At Founders MCC, members of a ministry can expect to find care and support from the other members of that ministry at the grassroots level. If you are not involved in a ministry and/or have drifted away from the Church, you will not be in a position to benefit from the care of ministry members. Each ministry will let you know what kinds of care and support they provide.

5. **Provide ways for you to be heard.**
   The Church has developed various ways to gather your feedback. Feedback resources range from forums which are set up throughout the year, Congregational Meeting, as well as the staff and lay delegates.

6. **Provide clear commitment to regular comprehensive communications, including an annual congregational meeting.**
   The Pastor, Board of Directors and Delegates will deliver an annual report.

7. **Provide a respectful environment for diverse views; treat each other with respect and honor diversity.**
   Our members come from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds. Our church will reflect some of these different backgrounds through our services, music, and ministries.

8. **Acknowledge the gifts you bring forward and support you in the use of these gifts in the Church.**
   Each year our Church sponsors an annual event to recognize the gifts given by members to various ministries.

9. **Acknowledge accomplishments.**
   The Church will regularly acknowledge accomplishments through various events throughout the year.

10. **Challenge you to be the best that you can be.**
    The Church wants to help individuals grow and develop. You are encouraged to take advantage of the training and skill development opportunities available to members. All teams will also receive beneficial feedback, delivered in a caring way, on your specific growth areas and needs.
Covenant from our Members

The covenant from our members is a commitment to grow together as a church which embraces the love of Jesus Christ and God.

As a member of Founders MCC:

1. **I commit that Founders MCC is my Church home, and I will respect and honor my Church home.**
   
   Your Church home is the place where you do most of your worship, service and support. You are not required to give up other affiliations to be a member or worshiper at Founders MCC. We ask that members of Founders MCC treat the Church and its congregants with respect.

2. **I affirm the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Church goals of Founders MCC**
   
   Affirming Founders MCC’s values, beliefs, vision and mission does not mean that you must agree with everything in those documents. It means affirming their essence and direction. We are a Church whose members come from diverse faith traditions. Our congregation affirms that there are many paths to God.

3. **I make a commitment to regular worship with Founders MCC**
   
   As a member, you determine what regular worship means to you, and then honor that commitment. Historically, members usually at the church a minimum of one Sunday each month to maintain membership.

4. **I commit to dealing directly and engaging in responsible conflict resolution and asking for help if needed.**
   
   Conflict is a part of everyday life. How we handle it makes the difference between worsening a situation or resolving it and forgiving one another. Members are responsible to solve conflicts that they are involved in. Here is what we know will help:

   - See the person with whom you are in conflict and try to work it out between the two of you. If that doesn’t work, seek a mutually agreed upon mediator. If that still doesn’t work, seek church arbitration. Do not spread gossip, bad mouth people or otherwise “increase the circle” of conflict. It helps no one.

5. **I choose to discover and use my gifts by volunteering in ministry through Founders MCC.**
   
   Members begin their journey of discovery by signing up with a ministry.

6. **I accept personal responsibility for caring in my ministry group.**
   
   Each group defines how care is provided in that ministry. Members pledge to honor the ways that their Ministry group has decided to provide this care.

7. **I commit to regularly supporting the Church by identifying and honoring my ongoing financial commitment.**
   
   As a member, you promise to support the church financially on a regular, ongoing basis. The amount of that commitment is between you and God.

8. **I will ask for help or support when I need care.**
   
   At Founders, it is your responsibility to reach out if you need or want care, for example, by calling and leaving a message at the office about illness, loss, etc.

9. **I will affirm that I have a role in nurturing the growth and development of the Church.**
   
   We want Founders MCC to grow in the variety and quality of the programs that we offer to care for the world. We want to increase the number of people regularly involved. As a member you promise to assist with these goals wherever possible.

10. **I will attend and participate in the annual congregational meeting. I will actively vote for the candidates in which will continue to support the Mission, Vision, Values and Church Goals of Founders MCC.**
    
    We want Founders MCC to have leaders in elected positions that show commitment to our church through their active participation in tithing, volunteerism and regular attendance in Church These elected members should truly be representative of the congregation as a whole.
Blessed to be a Blessing!

The Bible talks about “bringing the whole tithe into the storehouse”. The Biblical standard of our pledge is a tithe (10%) of our income that should be donated to the church. We know that a number of our community not only tithes but goes beyond the tithe in their act of radical giving. However, whether you give 10% (tithe) as your pledge or some other amount, know that your pledge makes a difference.

Keith, a member of the church who made a commitment to pledge a tithe, wrote this:

“God has been a major part of my life for as long as I can remember. I found a new church home in MCC a few years ago when I was challenged to consider tithing. I have found, over many years that giving my tithe has been a blessing. Sometimes it has been “easy” and sometimes it has been “tight”, but I have never found myself “without”. Giving is not limited to tithing. Whether I give money, time or service, I have always received more in return.”

Founders MCC Los Angeles relies solely on your generosity. Whatever you choose to give is appreciated. However, without much needed funds we will not be able to continue to expand the programs and ministries that all of us come to rely on in our spiritual journeys, receive the services that we enjoy and create change in the world.

As you think, pray and make your pledge, I invite you to think just what might be possible if every one of us made our financial pledge as an act of faith and how much more your gift is able to do when we come together. Just like the early disciples who responded to those who were naked, hungry and imprisoned without counting the cost, you have the opportunity to do the same today. Your pledge is one of time, talent and treasure.

We are better together and when we all do our part we can radically live and radically give to create the world that God wants us all to live in!

~ Rev. Dr. Neil G. Thomas

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says God, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”

~ Malachi 3:10

Feel free to contact Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas if you have more questions: revneil@mccla.org
The following is a breakdown of weekly and annual income levels and their corresponding tithing figures in 2.5% increments. Please feel free to use this if you would like to calculate your financial contribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Income</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
<th>2.5% Tithe</th>
<th>5% Tithe</th>
<th>7.5% Tithe</th>
<th>10% Tithe</th>
<th>Your Tithe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
<td>$ 5,200</td>
<td>$ 2.50</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
<td>$ 7.50</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 200.00</td>
<td>$10,400</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 300.00</td>
<td>$15,600</td>
<td>$ 7.50</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 400.00</td>
<td>$20,800</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 600.00</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 700.00</td>
<td>$36,400</td>
<td>$17.50</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>$70.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 800.00</td>
<td>$41,600</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>$80.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 900.00</td>
<td>$46,800</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
<td>$67.50</td>
<td>$90.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,250.00</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td>$31.25</td>
<td>$62.50</td>
<td>$93.50</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>$78,000</td>
<td>$37.50</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$112.50</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>$104,000</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Founders Metropolitan Community Church’s Covenant to Our Members

1. Provide powerful worship experiences.

2. Provide education that will facilitate the development of your faith and spiritual journey.

3. Provide excellent “responsive” pastoral care.

4. Provide you with support through the programs that you participate in.

5. Provide ways for you to be heard.

6. Provide clear commitment to regular comprehensive communications, including an annual congregational meeting.

7. Provide a respectful environment for diverse views; treat each other with respect and honor diversity.

8. Acknowledge the gifts you bring forward and support you in the use of these gifts in the Church.


10. Challenge you to be the best that you can be.

Signature of Senior Pastor

___________________________________
Date signed

Your Covenant to Founders Metropolitan Community Church

1. I commit that Founders MCC is my Church home, and I will respect and honor my Church home.

2. I affirm the Mission, Vision, Core Values and Church goals of Founders MCC.

3. I make a commitment to regular worship with Founders MCC.

4. I commit to dealing directly and engaging in responsible conflict resolution and asking for help if needed.

5. I choose to discover and use my gifts by volunteering in ministry through Founders MCC.

6. I accept personal responsibility for caring in my ministry group.

7. I commit to regularly supporting the Church by identifying and honoring my ongoing financial commitment.

8. I will ask for help or support when I need care.

9. I will affirm that I have a role in nurturing the growth and development of the Church.

10. I will attend and participate in the annual congregational meeting. I will actively vote for the candidates in which will continue to support the Mission, Vision, Values and Church Goals of Founders MCC.

Signature of Member

___________________________________
Print Name

___________________________________
Date signed
# FMCC Talent Release Form

| Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
| E-mail: |  |
| Phone: |  |

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I,_________________________________________</td>
<td>give permission to Founders Metropolitan Community Church’s Website Ministry to use both sound and/or visual images of myself, in part or in whole, for cablecast, broadcast, and/or other public viewing, including Internet Streaming Video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I,_________________________________________</td>
<td>do NOT give my permission to FMCC to use either sound or visual image of myself for broadcasting nor internet.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent or Legal Guardian (if under 18):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FMCC Membership Personal Data Sheet
(Please note that any information provided is held in the strictest of confidence)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(include zip):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home:</td>
<td>Cell:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Contact:</td>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates:</td>
<td>Birthday:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptism:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner(s):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupation:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today’s Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please describe any expectations, desires and hopes you have for your membership with FMCC:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office use only</th>
<th>Follow up call:</th>
<th>Membership:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certificate:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## FMCC Gifts of Ministry

Many opportunities are available to serve and participate in the life of our church. Not all opportunities exist at any given time. However, an indication of your personal preferences will be better recognized if you will take the time to let our church know what you really feel called to do and/or enjoy doing. Please indicate what you would like to do in the life of our church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Cell:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Spiritual Education & Worship
- Teacher/Facilitator
- Event Promotion
- Kids’ Club

### Worship & Music
- Acting
- Choir/Praise Team
- Dancing
- Flowers
- Instrumentalist
- Multi-Media (Sound, PowerPoint)
- Participate in Worship
- Set up sanctuary/altar
- Vocal Soloist
- Welcome Team

### Helping Those in Need
- Foster Care Mentoring
- Homeless (Brown Bag/HopeNet)
- Elder Connection
- Game Night with Seniors
- HIV/AIDS Ministry
- Immigration
- Laundry Love
- Thanksgiving feast for GLEH

### Annual Drives:
- Back Pack Drive
- Change for Change Drive
- Food Drive
- Queer Youth
- Back to Work Drive
- Toiletry Drive
- Toy Drive

### Behind the Scenes (Administration/Facilities)
- Archives and History
- Board of Directors
- Financial Development
- Graphic Design
- Lay Delegates
- Publicity
- Sewing
- Website ministry

### Office Help
- Answer phones
- Errands
- General office
- Word Processing

### Building & Grounds
- Carpentry
- Electrical/Plumbing
- Health & Safety Team
- Interior cleaning
- Landscaping
- Painting

### Creating Community
#### Hospitality/Social
- Entertainment events
- Fellowship after Worship
- Picnics
- Potlucks

### Connecting with others
- Azania (People of African Descent)
- Deaf Ministry
- Men’s Spirituality Group
- Military Ministry
- POZ Spirit (Men with HIV/AIDS)
- Pride
- Social Butterflies (Trans)
- Women’s Spirituality Group
- Young Professionals

### Congregational Care
- Contact missing members
- Grief Counselor
- Pastoral care sessions
- Send cards
- Speak to students/groups
- Visiting the sick
- Visitor Follow-up
- Writing prisoners

- Other

---

18