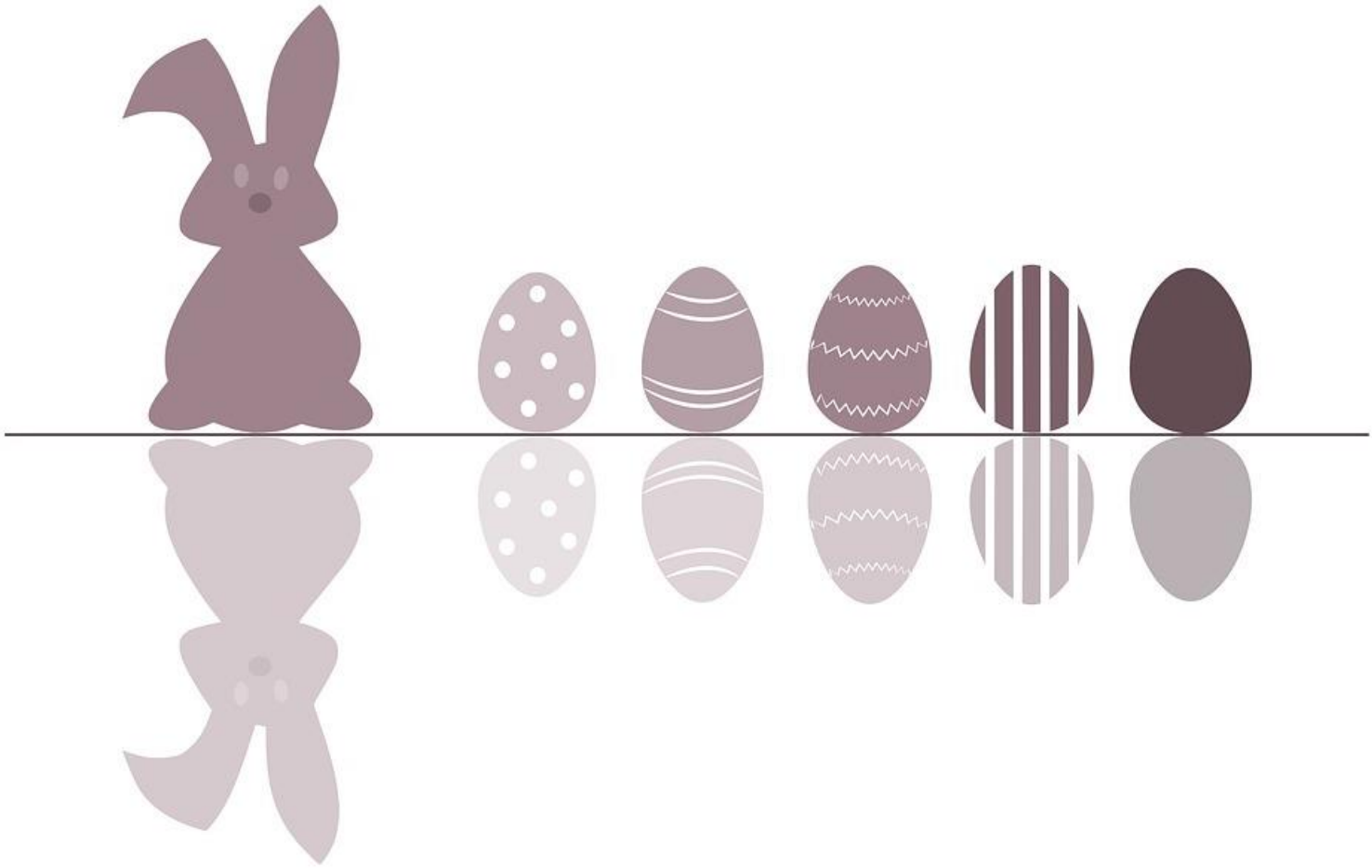
Community Guide

Spring edition

Vibrant Inclusive Progressive

Your guide to all the groups and activities at MCC Toronto



115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto. 416-406-6228

At MCC Toronto

We are called… to build bridges that transform lives and transform the world.

We are called… to welcome others into a spirituality that is vibrant, inclusive, and progressive.

We are called… to share our time, talents, and resources.

We are called to community and this is our guide.

- Connecting people to develop valued relationships
- Encouraging each other to find our gifts and talents
- Equipping ourselves to be a difference in other's lives

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Need care?

Have you been struggling with questions of faith?

Deacons provide the care and support you're seeking.

Contact one of our deacons today by email or telephone.

416-406-6228 x 114
deacons@mcctoronto.com

SAVE THE DATE

A Retirement Celebration for Brent!

Thursday October 19

6:00pm @ The Carlu

TICKETS AND PRICING DETAILS COMING SOON

Contacts

Senior Pastor's Office

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes C.M. Senior Pastor and Moderator of the Board, bhawkes@mcctoronto.com x 107

Annie Menezes Executive Assistant, amenezes@mcctoronto.com x 107

Kathy Katsunoff Coordinator of Weddings, weddings@mcctoronto.com x 170

Sandra Millar Coordinator of Funerals, funerals@mcctoronto.com 416-235-7330

Board: BofD@mcctoronto.com

Worship

Rev. Deana Dudley Pastor of Morning Worship, ddudley@mcctoronto.com x 130

Rev. Sam Morris Pastor of Evening Worship; Team Leader, Addiction, Mental Health & Wellness Ministry sammorris@mcctoronto.com x 199

Diane Leah Director of Music, dleah@mcctoronto.com

Community Care Ministry

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Rev. Carmen Llanos Assistant Program Developer; Pastor of Alternative Worship cllanos@mcctoronto.com x 126

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Refugee Ministry

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Mike Dodds Life Long Learning Team Leader mdodds@mcctoronto.com x 128

Rahma Ismail Project Manager—Major Initiatives rismail@mcctoronto.com

LEGEND

Volunteer

Full-time

Part-time: 2.5 to 4 days/week

Part-time: 1 to 2.5 days/week

Toronto Investing In Neighbourhoods

Get involved!

Social, Spiritual & Wellness Groups

Drag 'N Angels is our recreational co-ed crew consisting of a group of dedicated paddlers who are committed to working as a team for fellowship, fun and fitness while preparing for regattas across Ontario. **dragnangels@gmail.com**

Expansive Spiritual Gathering is a group of progressive Christians that meet on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

1st and 3rd Thursdays we watch and adapt progressive Christian services with language and imagery consistent with the insights of Bishop John Shelby Spong, Matthew Fox and others.

2nd and 4th Thursdays we learn about contemporary and past wisdom teachers who have played important roles in the transformation of consciousness. Presently, we are studying the video series "Interior Mythos" (interiormythos.com).

For more info, contact **donaldpeter@rogers.com**

HOLA is a group for Spanish speakers! We meet on the 4th Sunday of every month. **hola@mcctoronto.com**

April 16, 2017 | 1:00 p.m. | Sanctuary
MCC Toronto Spanish Easter Sunday Service. All are welcome. Servicio Domingo de Pascua en español en MCC Toronto el día 16 de Abril a la 1:00 pm. Todos y todas están invitados.

Men's Retreat is an annual retreat (May 12-14, 2017) for all who self-identify as male at MCC Toronto. The purpose is to create a safe space to experience the Spirit among us, to bond, to enjoy nature, to relax, and to experience spiritual growth. Go to **mcctoronto.com/men** or email **kevin_willcock@yahoo.ca**

Get involved!

Social, Spiritual & Wellness Groups

PACE is a social connection group for people of African and Caribbean ethnicity. **pace.mcctoronto@gmail.com**

Prayer Walks and Online Prayer is a prayer group that connects and prays online and meets for a monthly prayer walk on Church Street. **gtaprayerwalks@gmail.com**

Seniors Network is a dynamic group of seniors who organize activities for everyone to enjoy. **seniors@mcctoronto.com**

Soulful Worship and Praise (SWAP) organize modern African and Caribbean worship services from traditional roots.

SWaP service: Sunday May 7 | 2:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

TREAT (Trans Resource Education and Advocacy Team) is an open group centered on the Trans community. We serve as a prayer and support group focusing our activities on social interaction, education and outreach. **treat.canada@gmail.com**

Young Adults MCCTYA is a fantastic social group! In addition to occasional social outings and service projects, the Young Adults (ages 18-39) meet regularly for a monthly Coffee Shop Meetup, Sacred Connection gathering and Movie Night. Get connected—join our email list & Facebook group. **mcctya@gmail.com**

MCCTYA Coffee Shop Meetups Second Cup @ 544 Church St.
Tuesday May 2nd 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Tuesday June 6th 6:30-8:30 p.m.

MCCTYA Clean Toronto Together Sat. April 22, 10:30 a.m.

MCCTYA @ Men's Retreat May 12-14 mcctoronto.com/men

Come sing a song

Choirs of the Music Ministry

Explore your spirituality through song, engage deeply with worship and build community with other members.

The Choir OF MCC TORONTO

The Choir supports two services on Sunday morning as well as Pride and Christmas Eve at Roy Thomson Hall. The style of music ranges from traditional "church" to theatre, gospel and pop music. We are always looking for new members to join us.
We are a congenial group with a mandate to make great music and have fun and social time as well. You do not have to be able to read music. All you need is a love a music, reasonable singing skills and the desire to be part of a choir experience.
Contact: music@mcctoronto.com
Rehearsals are Thursdays 7:00 p.m. and one Saturday a month at 9:00 a.m.

Higher Praise

Gathering every Sunday afternoon to prepare the music for MCC Toronto's Elevation service, this energetic group of singers and musicians brings an intimate sound to our evening worship service.
Contact: higherpraise@mcctoronto.com
Rehearsals Sunday 4:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY CHOIR MCCTCC

The MCCT Community Choir (MCCTCC) seeks to serve our church family during selected Sunday morning services by performing choral music and supporting congregational singing, while welcoming non-auditioned, volunteer adult singers. For more info, please contact: **MCCTCC@mcctoronto.com**

Love one another

Refugees transform the world

Did you know that 95% of the people that participate in our ministry identifies as LGBTQ and are fleeing their country of residence due to persecution based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity? Did you know that we also provide support to women filing refugee claims based on domestic violence? Did you know that part of our program also includes children? Our Ministry provides a bridge to hope, safety, freedom and wholeness for LGBTQ refugees who fear or have experienced persecution, torture or risk of their lives in their home countries or the countries they normally live. So far we have helped over 1000 refugee claimants go through one of the most stressful times of their lives by providing letters of support for their hearings, emotional and spiritual care when they request it, peer support meetings, general information and resources to navigate Canada's welfare, social and health systems, and much more. Currently, we are also a Sponsorship Agreement Holder, and through IRCC's private sponsorship program we have actively sponsored and helped resettle over 20 refugees who suffered persecution abroad based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

BECOME A PARTICIPANT! Are you an inland LGBTQ Refugee Claimant seeking assistance? Are you LGBTQ Refugee recently resettled in Canada? Join us for monthly Peer Support Meetings:

4th Sunday of the month | 12:45pm |Sanctuary

MCC Toronto joyfully welcomes people from many different faith traditions, spiritualties, sexual orientations, gender identities, life stages, economic circumstances and ethnicities. Come to our meetings and find out more about how we can be of help!

Love one another

Refugees transform the world

Peer Support Office hours: Wednesday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday or Thursday by appointment. Contact **refugeepeersupport@mcctoronto.com**

Emotional and Spiritual care: If you find yourself in need of emotional or spiritual support drop by our office on Sundays 12pm -2pm and we will connect you with a deacon for pastoral care.

Letter of support for your hearing: if you seek a letter of support from our Ministry for your upcoming hearing, please register with us on Sundays (10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.) in room 202, or connect with Anthony Ojo and schedule an interview.

Worship: Refugees are welcome to join every worship service!

Volunteer at MCC Toronto: are you a refugee looking to integrate with our vibrant spiritual community and volunteer your time with one of our programs or with our ministry? Come to room 202 on Sundays until 2:00 p.m. and fill out a volunteer form.

Support our refugees: Are you a congregant concerned with social justice? Do you wish to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of people fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity? Volunteer with us! Come and fulfill your calling to live a full and meaningful life by engaging in the work of our ministry. The Refugee Ministry is not only our ministry/service, but, most importantly, is <u>your</u> ministry/service. Come join a vibrant community. We are looking for settlement teams! If you can put together a team of 5 people and are interested in settlement, please contact Alex by email: **adughman@mcctoronto.com**

Love one another

Peace, justice & the environment

Garden Fairies beautify the exterior landscape of the church! Get your hands dirty and help nurture creation. This group is very active when the weather is warm so contact us now to join our Spring plantings! **mmlsajr@hotmail.com**

Peace and Justice Strategy Team identifies and responds to the social justice priorities of our congregation, supports and collaborates with existing ministries within our church, and fosters linkages between MCC Toronto and broader communities of faith and justice. Are you already actively involved as staff or volunteer in social justice work? Join our team and be a bridge between MCC Toronto and other justice-seeking communities. You will be our "eyes and ears" in the field. No additional meetings required! To learn about the work we're already doing and how you can be involved, register for the Life Long Learning Peace and Justice Panel on May 17. Go to **learning.mcctoronto.com/pjst**

Sanctuary Saints is a team that helps tidy and organize the Sanctuary prior to worship services. We make sure that the Sanctuary is an inviting space for all. **ebrooker@gmail.com**

Social Justice Network In addition to group events, we are all individually involved with and advocate for specific issues that personally motivate us, including LGBTQ issues, prisoner rights, the use and misuse of water, trans issues, indigenous issues and immigration issues. **socialjustice@mcctoronto.com**

The Thrift Shop directs good used (sometime new) items to people that can use them at a reasonable price. Our work helps the environment, the church and the people all at once. **djmtor@yahoo.com**

Love one another

Creating a caring space for our community

Community Meals are enjoyed monthly in our Social Hall. We celebrate an open table and extend that sincere welcome to everyone. With a dedicated core of volunteers and generous donations from within and outside of our community, this Sunday Dinner is a vital and much-loved addition to our community outreach. All are welcome. Visit the church website for details: **www.mcctoronto.com**

Community Care Ministry (CCM) is a ministry of presence providing direct support to individuals experiencing episodic and ongoing spiritual questions related to life events and challenges. A caring presence and a listening ear, a shoulder to individuals experiencing challenges; physical, emotional and spiritual care and support for needs like aging, depression, grief and loss. If you're interested in learning more about the ministry and how you can become involved please contact Bryan Blenkin, Program Developer and /or Rev. Carmen Llanos, Assistant Program Developer: **CareProgram@mcctoronto.com**

Depression Initiative provides support for depression, anxiety and stress. **depressioninitiative@mcctoronto.com**

Additional mental health support groups and programs are in development. Please contact Rev. Sam Morris for more information: **sammorris@mcctoronto.com**

Healing Racism Initiative is another step towards a more just world. Our initiative has four components: 1) Create Safe Spaces for People of Colour to Share; 2) White People Educating White People About Racism; 3) Re-Learning about Race And Racism; 4) Systemic Racism. **healingracismmcct@gmail.com**

Radical hospitality

Put your passion into action

Hospitality Ministry is a team of caring volunteers who wish to welcome congregants to MCC Toronto through food and beverage services. This includes Café Connection after our morning services, Community Meals, concerts and other special events held at MCC Toronto. Come and have some fun in the kitchen! For more information contact **suze@heyladyproductions.com**

Information Centre The Sunday Reception Desk Team serves the vital role of welcoming new and regular congregants to MCC Toronto and we provide face to face information about the church, our programs, membership and all that we have to offer each Sunday after our services. Volunteers on our team are given training and the chance to meet many of our congregants and work with a positive team. The commitment to be part of this team is very reasonable! You will be assigned to one hour of service on a regular Sunday per month after one of our worship services. **kmdomingo@sympatico.ca**

Reception/Welcome Desk The weekday Welcome Desk/ Receptionist Ministry is an important part of MCC Toronto's communication network. As the Welcome Desk greeter/ receptionist, yours is the first face or voice that the visitor or caller will see or hear. It is very rewarding to be that person. This is a great position with someone who has some free time during the week. We are currently looking for 2 more volunteers to train as subs and support for our current team. This role allows you to deepen your relationship with all facets of church life—interacting with staff, Triangle students, and the many service-people who visit. It's a great place to be to learn about the church, all the work it does and all that it has to offer. **wilgerbee@hotmail.com**

Discover leadership

Develop & strengthen your skills

Administration and Finance Share your skills in organization and business administration to help us improve our capacity. **connect@mcctoronto.com**

Communications Team Are you good at writing, design, or visual art? Do you spend hours every day on Social Media? Have you got the gift of gab? Join us and improve our communications! **communications@mcctoronto.com**

Facilities Team Help improve and maintain our building to ensure we offer a safe and welcoming space. Join us every week for Facilities Wednesday as we all spend a few morning hours on a project in the church. **nyuzefowich@mcctoronto.com**

Giving Team Help our congregation grow in its understanding of the spiritual and relationship dimensions of giving. Become a MCC Toronto Giving Team Ambassador and share your love of MCC Toronto! **kcoutu@mcctoronto.com**

Worship Technology Our worship services are enhanced by good sound, good visual arts and seamless projections. Are you tech minded? **avtech@mcctoronto.com**

Multimedia: Do you use PowerPoint at work? Or, even if you don't, can you play solitaire on your computer? Then YOU CAN be a slide operator for one of our worship services! And PowerPoint users – YOU CAN enhance our worship by designing our beautiful slides—the "stained glass" of 21st century worship! Training provided. Contact Rev. Deana Dudley, Pastor for AM Worship, at **ddudley@mcctoronto.com**

Family & Children

Jesus said "Let the children come to me…"

Worship Bags are available for the children to use during the service. Worship bags can be picked up at the back of the church. Children may keep the colouring sheets. Please return the bags, pew pals, crayons, markers, whiteboard and playdough to back of the church in the box provided.

Nursery

Nursery Care (for children up to 3 years old) is provided throughout the year at both the 9:00 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. service. Infants are cared for by professionally trained staff.

Children's Spirituality Centre

We aim to create a Spirituality Center for children 3-11 years of age. We run two programs during the 11:00 a.m. service. The core of the curriculum for the 3-8 year old group is adapted from "Young Children and Worship". It is a worship focused, Montessori based and multi sensory approach to sharing meaningful faith between children, leaders, families and community.

The 9-11 year old group requested to have their own group that focused on how to develop a spiritual practice for their everyday life. The curriculum for this group is "A Joyful Path". It is a Progressive Christian curriculum that taps into the children's inner wisdom.

It teaches interdependence, self awareness, respect for nature, stillness, forgiveness, prayer, meditation, and integrity. Using the Bible and other wisdom stories, *A Joyful Path* helps children learn how to follow the path of Jesus in today's world.

What Parents say:

"Our two children often talk about the activities and time they spend at the Children's Ministry. It's such a pleasure to see their enthusiasm when the welcome banner comes out inviting them to join the other kids and take part in their church activities."

What Children say:

"My favourite part of Sunday School is the painting. One of my papers ripped so I gave myself a new one. One Sunday, I learned how to sew. I like my church friends."

- Tommy

What volunteers say:

“Working with kids and seeing them progress on their spiritual path is very rewarding. Being around the spark, enthusiasm and imagination of children makes me more aware of the miracles around us.”

“Volunteering in the Children’s Ministry has made me a better parent – more “in the moment” with my kids, and better able to appreciate the gifts and wonder they bring to our lives.”

children@mcctoronto.com

The art of worship

Explore your spirituality

Join the leadership of worship and meet other team members and congregants! Volunteers usually commit to one Sunday shift a month and contribute as part of a team.

Altar Guild We wait on God's table! Help prepare the altar and communion elements for worship. Carry the cross and candles during the procession. Schedule: Sundays and special services.

Morning services: altarguild@mcctoronto.com
Elevation service: pkotva1522@gmail.com

Anointing and Serving Anoint worshipers with oil and serve communion. Learn about the mystery and beauty of these important rituals and share your blessings with the world.

Morning services: denise@deniseandreacampbell.com
Elevation services: rob.daywalker@gmail.com

Lectors Lift up your voice and read scripture and other sources of wisdom during the service. **marilynbyers@gmail.com**

Ushers & Greeters Greet people as they arrive to worship and help them navigate the space. Collect the offering during the service. Volunteers are asked to make a reliable commitment to the team. Greeting people, handing out our Sunday News, directing for Anointing and inviting and directing for Communion. We are the first impression people have as they arrive for worship.

Morning services: beben14@rogers.com
Elevation services: pkotva1522@gmail.com

Good Friday

April 14, 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Easter Sunrise

April 16, 6:00 a.m. | Ashbridges Bay
(meet in the south parking lot at 5:45 a.m.)
For more details, visit **mcctoronto.com/easter**

Easter Brunch

April 16 following the Sunrise Service | Sunset Grill (Queen Street)

Easter Sunday

April 16, 9:00 a.m. |10:50 a.m. | 1:00 p.m. (Spanish) | 7:00 p.m. | Sanctuary

Overflow parking is available at No Frills (Carlaw Ave. & Gerrard St.)
Free Shuttle Bus operates every 15 minutes from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Seder Supper

April 19, 6:30 p.m. | Social Hall

Learn more about the significance of the Passover Seder and our own connection to the Jewish roots of Christianity.
sederpotluck@mcctoronto.com

Connections

Deepen your relationships

Membership is required if you want to vote for our next Senior Pastor! In becoming a member, you step across the threshold to link heart, mind, spirit and voice with this spiritual community. Membership Class is the first step towards deepening your relationship with our community. During a Membership Class you will learn more about our congregation from Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, ask questions, enjoy a meal together and explore opportunities to get connected. Register for April 23rd and 25th classes on our website. **membership@mcctoronto.com**

Board of Directors (board.mcctoronto.com)

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes	Moderator/Chairperson President & Chief Executive Officer Member of Governance Committee
Anne Brayley	Vice-Moderator (Chair) Secretary of the Corporation Member of Governance and Fund Development Committees
Joe Jamieson	Member of Finance & Audit Committee
Lori Boyce	Chair of Governance Committee
Andrew Fleming	Chair of Fund Development Committee Member of Governance Committee
Bentley Springer	Member of Fund Development Committee
Cheryl Smith	Member of Finance & Audit Committee

The Senior Pastor Search committee is looking for our next Senior Pastor! Details at board.mcctoronto.com/#senior-pastor-search or email **SeniorPastorSearch@mcctoronto.com**

Explore volunteer opportunities on our new volunteer website!

volunteer.mcctoronto.com

VOLUNTEER

- Regularly updated with new volunteer jobs at MCC Toronto!
- Search by skills you have or ones you'd like to develop!
- Respond online to the postings that interest you!

Give to MCC Toronto!

Automated Giving Commitment Card

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (cell) _____

(work) _____ (ext.) _____

Email: _____

Please do not assume that the information we have on file is accurate and up to date and print clearly.

Credit Card Option

VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐

Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____ (month / year)

Signature: X

My Pledge to:

Give

$ _____* Per ☐ Week ☐ Month ☐ Year

Electronic Withdrawal Options:

To be transferred from my account or charged to my credit card:

- ☐ One Lump Sum Payment
- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ All on the 1st of the Month
- ☐ All on the 15th of the Month
- ☐ Half on the 1st and Half on the 15th of the Month

Membership

☐ I am not a member of MCC Toronto please contact me I would like to find out more.

☐ I have attached a voided cheque to my commitment card for Electronic Funds Transfer.

Signature: X

I authorize MCC Toronto to debit this account according to the terms listed in this document.

*Donations will be debited/charged on an ongoing basis, as indicated, and will repeat until you notify us you wish to discontinue giving.

Turn the page on the next chapter in your life!

Life Long Learning all Spring at MCC Toronto

learning.mcctoronto.com