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No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land.

— Warsan Shire

Updates on our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs



This Monday (June 20) is **World Refugee Day**. As MCC Toronto is Canada's only LGBTQ+ exclusive Sponsorship Agreement Holder with the federal government, this day is especially important to us. For the past 15 years, our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs have been working extremely hard, bringing many people from terribly dangerous environments to safety. So far,

we have been able to support over **74** brave LGBTQ+ folks escape from torture or death sentence.

Just this past month, we've welcomed 7 LGBTQ+ individuals from Iran, Syria, and Venezuela. But that would not have been possible without the incredible efforts of our wonderful sponsorship teams that took on the important responsibility of saving lives. The teams greeted their sponsored refugees at the airport and gave them a warm welcome. You can do the same and join us this Sunday, on June 19, during our Worship Service. It's for great moments like these that we understand and appreciate how increasingly vital our human rights work is becoming, every day.

Particularly with the urgent humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and Ukraine, we have doubled our efforts in raising awareness and providing support to LGBTQ+ Afghans and Ukrainians. For instance, we've given a number of interviews including [The Globe and Mail](#), [The Toronto Star](#), and [Radio-Canada](#); did a social media collaboration with Canadian-Ukrainian activist and actor, [Andrew Kushnir](#); and are in the process of hiring a Human Rights Director thanks to our [Elevation Campaign](#).

We are also happy to celebrate the formation of Team Safe Haven, a new sponsorship team that has come together to help settle 2 of the 50 LGBTQ+ Afghan refugees who have registered with us. The members of Team Safe Haven will be co-hosts of MCC Toronto's Community Booth as part of [Pride's Street Fair](#). You can visit their fundraising page [here](#).

If you want to join and support our human rights and social justice work, please consider becoming a refugee sponsor or a volunteer, or consider making a gift in support our work.

MAKE A GIFT IN SUPPORT OF OUR LGBTQ+ REFUGEE PROGRAMS

A reminder to join our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs staff team for a special **World Refugee Day** program being hosted on June 20 at 3:30 PM with lawyer Nicholas Hersh of Capital Rainbow Refuge (CRR). Nicholas Hersh will give insight into the history of World Refugee Day and share useful resources that can be used to assist refugees in preparing for a successful hearing.

JOIN THIS EVENT

Meeting ID: 878 1225 3434
Meeting password: 368363

Mask Mandate Survey Results

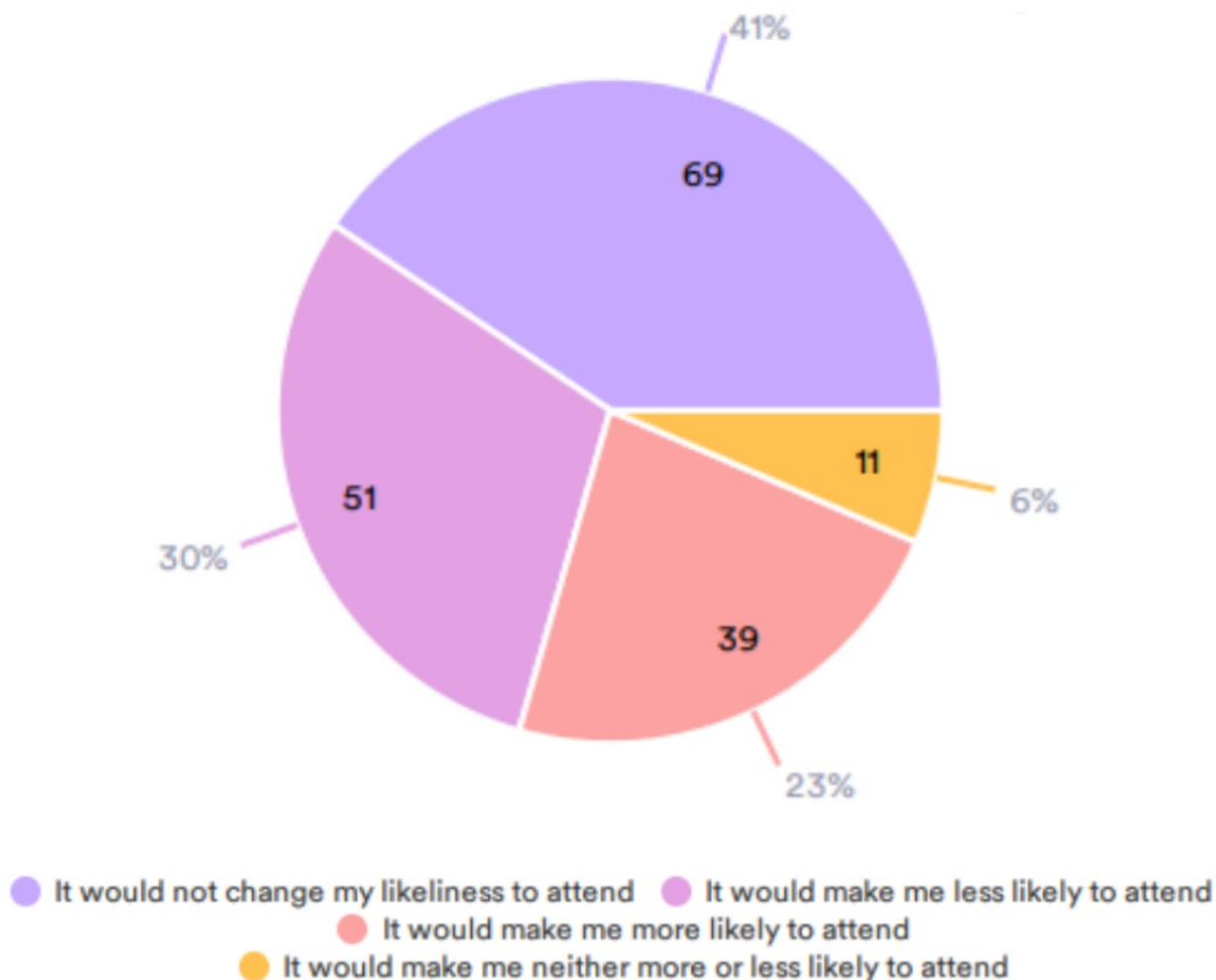


Many thanks to the 194 congregants who responded to our Mask Mandate Survey. Your feedback was tremendously important to us as we considered whether to maintain or lift

MCC Toronto's current mask mandate.

Making our task more difficult is that our congregants are evenly split on the mask mandate question – 50% of respondents prefer to maintain the mask mandate while 50% would prefer mask wearing to be optional. Digging into the results further, the following stat gave us pause:

How might making masks optional impact your attendance in person at MCC Toronto?



This question was posed to folks who have attended at least one in-person since March 2022. With 31% saying that the making masks optional would make them less likely to attend, and only 23% saying it would make them more likely to attend, we have decided to maintain the mask mandate – at least for the next while. Please know that we are grateful for the PAGES and PAGES of comments that folks provided along with their survey answers – we've read them all and appreciate the extra effort you took to offer your feedback on this important issue.

MCC Toronto hopes and prays that our members and congregants will continue to be patient with us as we work to ensure the health and safety of the more vulnerable around us.

-Rev. Jeff Rock, Senior Pastor

Our 2022 Pride Celebrations are almost upon us!



We hope you will join us for the spectacular return of MCC Toronto's in-person outdoor **Church on Church Pride Celebration Service** on June 26 at 11 AM at the Church Street Junior Public School. Please be sure to go to our [Facebook event](#) to let us know you are attending, and please share the event so everyone can find out about our amazing Pride Celebration Service!

Please also note that there is limited seating, so if you are able bodied, consider bringing a blanket to watch the Service on the AstroTurf.

And in the event of inclement weather, a reminder that we will be holding the Service at the Church and that decision will be made – and communicated out - 24 hours in advance.

Many thanks to all the folks who have signed up to be a Volunteer – we have now filled all the positions at our StreetFair and Church on Church. However, we invite you to [sign up](#) to be part of our MCC Toronto proud parade contingent! You can join the MCC Toronto parade team at **2 PM** at **Ted Rogers Way & Charles St E** (parade placement **D24**).

MCC Toronto's Pride T-shirts are now available for sale. You can purchase at our Worship Service on June 19, or by visiting MCC Toronto next week (Monday to Friday) between 9 AM and 2 PM.



And, finally, it is not too late to become a Pride donor! Pride donors will be recognized in next week's Query, in the digital Program Book, and will also receive reserved seating.

BECOME A PRIDE DONOR TODAY

Musical Guests

We have a special Worship Service for you this Sunday! Dale Miller and Billy Newton Davis will both be our musical guests!



Billy is a singer/songwriter/recording artist and four-time Juno Award winner. He has performed in venues across Europe and North America and has sung with artists such as Celine Dion, and is perhaps best known for his extensive work with The Nylons. Billy also donates his talent towards numerous humanitarian causes including AIDS awareness, Actors Equity, and housing for people living with mental illness.



Dale holds a Bachelor of Music Performance and a Bachelor of Music Education from Acadia University, and is one of Toronto's most sought-after vocalists.

Theatre credits include *Falstaff* (COC, Dora Award 'Best Ensemble'); *James & The Giant Peach* (Assistant Director/Associate MD); *Beauty And The Beast*, *Annie* (YPT); *Deadmouse – The Musical* (director, Toronto Fringe); *Anne of Green Gables* (Theatre Calgary); *Seussical* (YPT/ Citadel Theatre); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Mayfield); *Knickerbocker Holiday* (TOT); *Les Misérables* (1000 Islands Playhouse); *The Handmaid's Tale* (COC); and *Forever Plaid* (Stage West).

Television credits include *The Expanse*, *Designated Survivor*, *Reign* and *Dark Matter*.

Dale currently works as a licensed real estate agent, and is thrilled to share his musical gifts with the folks at MCC Toronto.

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THIS SERVICE ONLINE](#)

ACBM | This Sunday, June 19



Our 2022 Annual Congregational Business Meeting will be held on **June 19** following the Sunday Worship Service. All relevant pre-reads documents are now up on our website. Please join us if you are able!

[REVIEW THE ACBM DOCUMENTS](#)

ACBM [ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 828 3849 6709

Password: 797837

Anniversary Sunday

As we prepare for our 49th Anniversary Sunday celebration on July 17, we invite our members and congregants to consider the opportunity to nominate someone for any of our three annual awards:

The Beloved Disciple Award

Presented for long-term, distinguished service to the church. May only be bestowed once to members of 10+ years

The Community Service Award

Presented to remarkable people who have made a significant contribution to our wider community

The Vision Alive Award

Presented to individuals who have taken part in the vision for our church and made it happen.
May only be bestowed once per project

NOMINATION FORM NOW OPEN

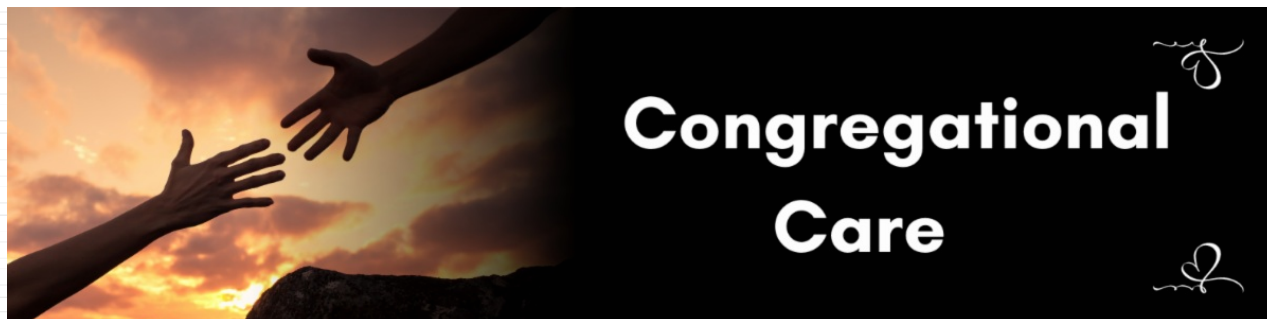
Volunteer with us!

Volunteers have always been at the heart of MCC Toronto. We would not be the strong, inclusive and welcoming community we are, without the support and dedication of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and our other public programs.

Right now we urgently need volunteers familiar with **webcasting, sound operation and multimedia!**

To sign up for these or other opportunities, please click the link below.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE



Taking care of each other is more important than ever these days, and if you are in need of some care we are here for you. Just hop on the link below and fill out the form to let one of our pastors know about your needs.

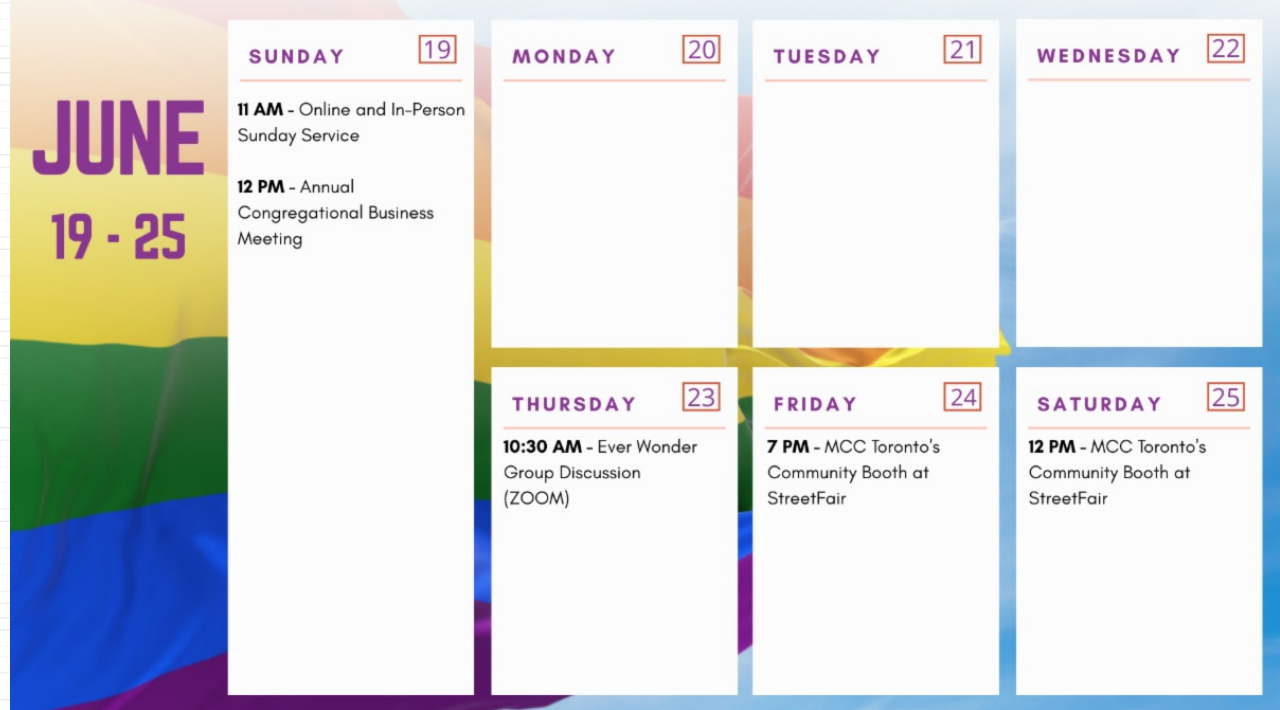
Want to learn more? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin!](#)

REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE

Every Gift is a Blessing. Please consider making a gift to MCC Toronto today.

DONATE

**Online and In-Person Programming
June 19 - 25**



Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

12:15 PM - Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)

Friday:

7 PM - MCC Toronto's Community Booth at StreetFair

([Link to details](#))

Saturday:

12 PM - MCC Toronto's Community Booth at StreetFair

([Link to details](#))



Sunday Digital Coffee Hour

Sunday | 1 PM

**There will be no Digital Coffee Hour On
June 19 and 26**



Annual Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday | 12:15 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 828 3849 6709

Password: 797837

Join us for

Online and In-Person Worship Services

Sunday 11 AM | In-Person | MCC Toronto YouTube

Sunday Service Worship

Online | 11 AM | In-person | MCC Toronto YouTube

Share Us Digitally!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in anything we're doing at MCC Toronto please invite them to join us digitally via the button below.

[SHARE THE QUERY HERE](#)



Questions? Comments? Inquires?
We'd love to hear from you!

Connect with us at
communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 