



“Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts.”

– Barbara Gittings

## Human Rights Programs Update

Many thanks to the congregation and wider community who have participated in MCC Toronto’s Human Rights programming and events this summer! We’re pleased to be offering programming that supports the work we do and the spirit of the MCC Toronto community!

Our community partnerships continue to thrive, and we are so excited to invite Transforming Style into our beautifully renovated space to hold their styling sessions which provide clothes and gender-affirming gear to queer folk to help them express their authentic selves. In addition, we are in the process of starting a partnership with a community kitchen to provide food support to food-insecure households. Keep an eye open for a call for volunteers for this new initiative!

We are thrilled at the turnout for our “All Bodies Are Good Bodies” bi-weekly yoga classes, which exist as a safe and healing space for all genders and bodies that are often excluded from wellness spaces. One of our participants emailed us to say, “I loved this class for so many reasons. For example, Reagan gave us specific poses for those with rib pain from using chest binders, and I felt so seen and cared for.” We invite you to join us at our next class this Monday, **August 28, at 6 PM!** Register [here](#), and be sure to tell us your accessibility needs.

Beginning **September 5**, we will be offering Meditations for Queer Joy bi-weekly on Zoom. These events are the latest addition to our mental wellness programs. We invite you to join us for guided meditations to reflect, heal, and celebrate all parts of yourself. Keep an eye on the events calendar in The Query and social media for a Zoom link.

Speaking of wellness, our Low-Cost Therapy Program continues to serve clients weekly who face barriers to accessing therapy. Our roster of queer and allied therapists are available every week to provide support to queer youth aged 15-29.

We have received many excellent applications for our Youth Leadership Program, and we’re happy to announce that the participants have been chosen! The projects selected for the program include a mental health peer support group, a social justice education initiative, a project supporting the advancement of young black professionals, and a community advocacy group for sexual health and education. We look forward to sharing more about these incredible youth with you in the coming weeks!

We are also excited to offer workshops this fall and winter exploring topics like gender equity 101, challenging gender-based violence, as well as artistic workshops like Poetry for Healing. More info on these workshops will be available soon.

Stay up to date on the work of our Human Rights department by following us on Instagram at [@mcchumanrights](#), and as always, thank you for your support!

- Cass Hicks  
Human Rights & Community Outreach Manager (she+they)

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## Update from Senior Pastor Search Committee

Dear MCC Toronto members & congregants,

Following the application closing date (August 15) in our Senior Pastor search, we wanted to give you an update.

We were grateful to receive a large number of applications for the Senior Pastor position which certainly bodes well for the future of MCC Toronto! The Search Committee have already identified a handful of potential candidates that will be selected for first round interviews, which we hope to have completed by the second week of September.

The Committee would also like to acknowledge and thank members and congregants who completed our Senior Pastor Survey in June. Your input (summarized below) will now guide the Senior Pastor Search Committee in working to select the right candidate for this critical and integral position within our church.

Key Congregant Survey input:

- A total of 61 responses were received from both online and paper surveys.
- Respondents want outward-looking leadership, community outreach, and visibility.
- Needs to get to know the people in the congregation.
- The Senior Pastor can't know everything. Needs to know when to delegate and to surround themselves with strong leaders/staff.
- Have the ability to attract and support young people.
- Able to listen and seek input from others.
- Mend broken relationships within the congregation and community.
- A visionary.

We also received some great feedback from one of our newer Senior Pastor Search Committee members, who had these comments to add;

**a)** Info from the MCC Time Capsule Project can be utilized to assist us in finding the kind of pastor we need to lead us into the future.

**b)** Use a framework of Community, Identity and Purpose to guide us when crafting our interview questions.

We look forward to updating you again once we move into the second round of interviews.

Thank you for your continued feedback and support.

- Senior Pastor Search Committee  
Kevin Willcock (he/him), Lee Moran (he/him), Stephenie Naugler(she/her), Debra Williams (she/her) and Joe Jamieson(he/him)

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## MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary T Shirts!

If you have pre-ordered a T Shirt, you can pick it up this Sunday (**August 27**) at the Service.



If you are interested in buying one, you can purchase with **debit/credit or exact change** at the Info Desk following **next Sunday's** Worship Service. Or you can order online below!

ORDER YOUR T SHIRT ONLINE TODAY

## Musical Guest



**CJ McQueen** (he/they) is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

CJ is a Toronto rapper, producer and YouTuber who performs under the name **CJ The X**. After leaving vocal jazz studies at Humber College, CJ began exploring aesthetic philosophy in tandem with their other interests of playwriting, video production, and wine tasting. They stay busy creating [YouTube videos](#) about philosophy and producing their third EP, as well as singing in The Choir of MCC Toronto.

**August 27 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel**

CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE

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## Meditations for Queer Joy | Sept 5 | 6 PM



Beginning **September 5, at 6 PM**, join us for Meditations for Queer Joy bi-weekly on Zoom! These events are the latest addition to our mental wellness programs where welcome you to join us for guided meditations to reflect, heal, and celebrate yourself in all of your parts.

JOIN HERE

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## September Soiree | Sept 10 | 4 PM



Interested in learning more about MCC Toronto's Human Rights Programs? Interested in getting involved? We are thrilled to invite you to **September Soirée**, a celebration of MCC Toronto & Transforming Style's partnership, taking place **September 10 at 4 PM** at Wella Salon in the beautiful Distillery District. Our **Soirée** includes drink, appetizers, music, drag performances, prizes, and special gifts with all proceeds going in support of the life-changing work of MCC Toronto and Transforming Style for queer youth. Get your early-bird ticket now by following [this link](#).

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# Volunteer

with us!

MCC Toronto is incredibly grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and other public programs. Please note at this time we are unable to accept new applications for Worship Team volunteer demands due to a high volume of interest. Please click on the link below to view other volunteer opportunities.

[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

## Become a Monthly Donor



It is always a pleasure to acknowledge and celebrate members and congregants enrolled in our weekly and monthly giving program! The on-going support of our 300+ sustaining donors is so critical to the work MCC Toronto does everyday, and we are extremely grateful for your gifts. However, like a lot of churches, MCC Toronto has seen our weekly and monthly contributions decline over the past two years. Today, we invite you to consider joining our family of weekly or monthly donors. Whether your gift is \$5 a week, or \$25 a month, every bit helps support our operations. You can sign up on our [website](#) or contact [giving@mcctoronto.com](mailto:giving@mcctoronto.com) for more information.

## Congregational Care

Taking care of ourselves or others is always important. 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 about our Congregational Care program? [Watch this video by Rev. Junia Joplin](#) (she/her)!

[REQUEST CONGREGATIONAL CARE HERE](#)

### **This Week at a Glance August 27 - September 2**

Sunday:

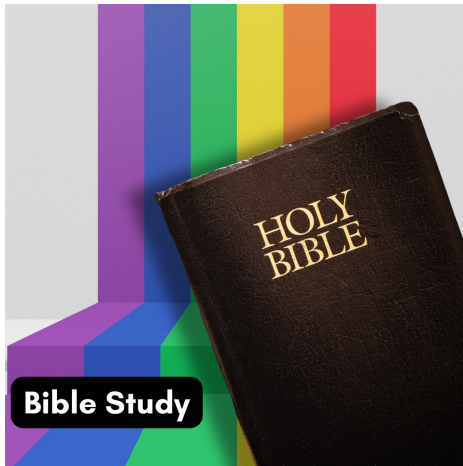
Thursday:

11 AM - Online and in-person Worship Service

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion  
(Email: [everwonder@mcctoronto.com](mailto:everwonder@mcctoronto.com))

**Monday:**

6 PM - FREE Yoga Class



**Bible Study**

**Bible Study**  
Resumes in September



**Digital Fellowship Hall**

**Digital Fellowship Hall**  
Resumes in September



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

Connect with us at [communications@mcctoronto.com](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



Sent with love 



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