

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Rev. Deana Dudley to be officially installed as the first female Senior Pastor  
in MCC Toronto's 50-year history**



**Metropolitan Community  
Church of Toronto  
(MCC Toronto)**

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**Toronto – Friday, January 19**– The Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto (MCC Toronto) will add to its already storied legacy by elevating Rev. Deana Dudley (she/they) to the position of Senior Pastor. Rev. Dudley will be installed as MCC Toronto's fifth Senior Pastor and first woman and lesbian on Sunday, January 21 at MCC Toronto's 11 AM Worship Service.

A former Maritime Admiralty lawyer in the United States, Deana sought more meaningful work, became a minister, and moved to Canada in 2001. She holds a B.A. (Hons) from Dominican University, a Juris Doctor from George Washington University, and an M.Div. (Hons) from Wesley Theological Seminary. Rev. Dudley joined MCC Toronto as Assistant Pastor in 2009 and has been Acting Senior Pastor since November 2022.

Established in 1973 as a LGBT2S+-affirming place of worship, MCC Toronto has grown into a vibrant, inclusive and progressive place of worship and a powerhouse human rights organization. Previous Senior Pastors have included founder Rev. Bob Wolfe (1973-1977, he/him), Rev. John Ayres (1977, he/him), Rev. Jeff Rock (2018-2023, he/him) and Rev. Brent Hawkes (1977-2018, he/him) who bears the title Senior Pastor Emeritus.

Building on the foundational work of MCC Toronto's first 50 years, Rev. Dudley has set as her key priorities: engaging 2SLGBTQ+ youth in social justice and human rights work; advocating for the rights of trans and gender-diverse people in the face of increased political antagonism; and exploring new ways for inter-faith collaborations to address religious divisions.

**Quotes:**

"Rev. Deana Dudley has been an integral part of the MCC family for as long as I can remember. Her compassion, commitment to inclusion and her wonderful sense of joy and good humour will make the next Rev. Deana chapter as remarkable as the ones that have gone before. Congratulations Deana!"

John Tory, former Mayor, City of Toronto (he/him)

"I've had the distinct privilege of working with Rev. Deana Dudley, a magnificent 'tour de force' when it comes to her passion for advocacy and community service. I hold Deana in the highest regard and know that the future of MCC Toronto is bright in her most capable and caring hands."

Kristyn Wong-Tam, MPP Toronto Centre (they/them)

“I am very excited about Rev. Deana Dudley taking on the role of Senior Pastor. She is not only a great preacher who will bring continuity to its past – she is a wonderful, humble and gifted person who will bring great things to its future.”

Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C.M.

“Rev. Deana Dudley brings kind, loving and direct leadership to our Board and organization, steering us towards a vision of growth for our vibrant inclusive spiritual community. Rev. Deana pastors our loving and diverse queer community with passion, experience and thoughtfulness. She leads, challenges and inspires us! We are honoured to have such a Pastor.”

James Beattie, Co-Chair, MCC Toronto Board of Directors

“Rev. Deana Dudley brings so much understanding and love to our community and faith family. She is always available – and always full of wisdom.”

Jorge da Costa, long-time congregant (he/him)

“Rev. Deana Dudley’s passion, curiosity, insights and humour has always been an inspiration. In my work, I’ve seen Deana demonstrate a clear vision for MCC Toronto’s place in the city and the world. I’m excited about connecting with her in the future - both as my pastor and as a close partner in our work at Dignity Network Canada.”

Doug Kerr, Executive Director, Dignity Network Canada and long-time MCC Toronto congregant

“Rev. Deana Dudley has a strong belief in justice for all and shows a determination to work hard at getting people from divergent backgrounds to listen and learn from each other. Her sense of humour and down-to-earth approach is exactly what MCC Toronto needs to continue our mission and vision”.

Dawn Sinclair, long-time congregant and member of The Choir of MCC Toronto

### **About MCC Toronto:**

*Rooted in the 2SLGBTQ+ community and throughout its history, MCC Toronto has been a place of worship – and a place of action. Our weekly Worship Services are attended by 600+ in-person and online congregants, and we are proud to be a place where everyone matters and everyone belongs. MCC Toronto is the home of Triangle Program, Canada’s first 2SLGBTQ+ High School, in partnership with the Toronto District School Board. Our LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs have helped over 10,000 asylum seekers to Canada since 2013, including 2,400 in 2023 alone. We have played consequential leadership roles on the national stage in the fight for same gender rights. In 2022, MCC Toronto announced that it had raised a record-setting \$5 million through a major gift campaign to help support an elevation of our human rights work through expanded programming, new partnerships, and an emphasis on creating impact and change. MCC Toronto celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2023. More information at [mcctoronto.com](http://mcctoronto.com).*

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Media are invited to attend Rev. Deana Dudley’s Installation. Please RSVP to [jfarrell@mcctoronto.com](mailto:jfarrell@mcctoronto.com)