



# Metropolitan Community Church Toronto

## and the Paul Austin Human Rights Centre

*"Building bridges with a vibrant spirituality that transforms lives and transforms the world"*

115 Simpson Ave.  
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1A1  
#416-406-6228

## MCC TORONTO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Meeting Summary - Sept 2025

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**Sept 3, 2025 / 6:15 pm / Hybrid (in-person and online)**

## AGENDA

- A. Updates from the Paul Austin Human Rights Centre
  - B. Communications and Outreach
  - C. Church Operations and Finance
  - D. Looking Ahead
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### A. Paul Austin Human Rights Centre: Growing Impact

- **Strong Leadership:** Since its launch in 2022, the Paul Austin Human Rights Centre has grown under the leadership of Kenyatta Barnaby, Manager of Human Rights & Community Outreach, and Dave Kerr, Senior Director, supported by five amazing volunteers. A brand-new Human Rights Advisory Committee is coming soon to help shape the next phase of this vital work.
- **Programs Making Waves:**
  - *Proud Voices:* A dynamic speaker series uplifting queer advocates, already reaching over 440 people both person and online.
  - *All Bodies on Gender:* Weekly yoga and dance sessions, bringing joy and connection to 120 participants.
  - *Youth Therapy:* Partnering with Redbird Therapy, supporting 19 youth so far.
  - *Youth Leadership Micro-Grants:* Helping young leaders launch advocacy and wellness projects.
- **Refugee Support Legacy:** MCC Toronto's longstanding ministry of refugee support is thriving—36,000 new members welcomed this year, with 118 sponsored privately and 17 through government-assisted programs, alongside our strong partnership with Rainbow Railroad.
- **Mental Health & Community Care:** The Centre's wellness offerings—yoga, dance, and youth therapy—are proving to be powerful tools for healing and connection.



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The Board emphasizes education and partnerships over direct programming, and acknowledges that the MCC Toronto is seen as a trusted community anchor, a place of belonging and care, offering safe spaces and peer support.

- **What's Next:** A new Human Rights Advocacy Committee will bring together community leaders, subject experts, youth, and refugee voices—keeping the Centre accountable, transparent, and deeply rooted in MCC Toronto's mission.

### **B. Communications & Outreach: Amplifying Our Voice**

- Welcome to our new Communications Coordinator, Quinn Carruthers! Quinn has already begun rolling out fresh ideas to amplify MCC Toronto's voice.
- A new communications strategy will highlight our stories, our impact, and our presence in the wider community—from Pride to social media to Sunday worship.
- Look forward to new branding, creative storytelling, and stronger outreach to keep MCC Toronto visible, vibrant, and connected.

### **C. Church Operations & Finances: Building for the Future**

- **New Energy on Staff:** With new hires in communications and database management, our operations are running stronger than ever.
- **Finances:** Our financial forecast shows that we will need to stretch to meet our year-end goals. With upcoming fundraising events and your continued support, we are excited and confident about meeting this need.

### **D. Congregational Life & Care: Together in Respect, Together in Care.**

- **Sanctuary Decorum:** A new set of expectations is being gently introduced—first to volunteers and new members—to encourage respect, hospitality, and inclusivity across generations and cultures.
- **Policies for a Strong Foundation:** A new working group will streamline and review our policies, making sure MCC Toronto is always operating with integrity and best practices.
- **Congregational Care:** Over 300 calls came in during July and August, the majority for refugee support. The Board is exploring solutions like a dedicated refugee phone line to ensure both congregants and refugees are well served.



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## Looking Ahead with Hope

As we step forward, the Board is focused on:

- Launching the Human Rights Advisory Committee with strong community voices.
- Expanding communications and fundraising to secure a sustainable future.
- Deepening MCC Toronto's role as a spiritual home and a beacon of justice.
- Strengthening partnerships that help us reach further and love deeper.

With gratitude and excitement, we thank you for your prayers, your gifts, and your presence. Together, we are writing the next chapter of MCC Toronto's story—one rooted in courage, compassion, and community.