

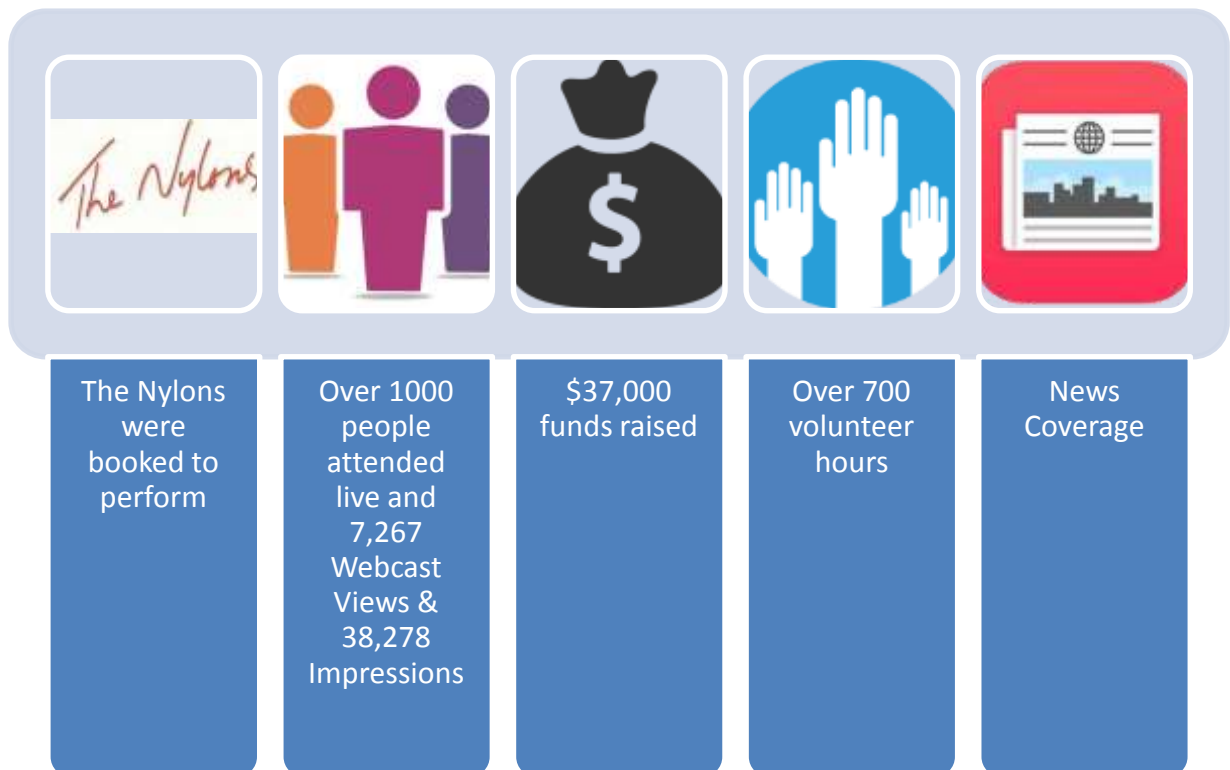
Faith + Pride

June 25, 2017 – 11 a.m.



Results

We are so grateful for all of the generous support of our Pride Service which is one of MCC Toronto's largest outreach events. Your significant contribution helped us cover the costs of our event and helped us reach more than ever before as we were able to webcast our Pride Service for the very first time.



Pre-Event Media



Retiring pastor and LGBT activist Brent Hawkes preparing for 'difficult conversations' at his final Pride

Hawkes would like to see uniformed police officers eventually return to the parade



Brent Hawkes, a retired pastor and LGBT activist, is seen at a Pride event in Toronto. (Photo by: [unreadable])

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Over the course of his 40-year career, Toronto pastor Brent Hawkes has endured police beatings at LGBT demonstrations, coordinated neighborhood blockades and stood trial in a high-profile sexual assault case. Now, after a career so often filled with challenges, he's missing in the midst of one of his last.

Hawkes is set to deliver his final sermon for Toronto Pride on June 25. With the organization and Toronto's LGBT community, he'll be addressing the future, diversity and the inclusion of uniformed police officers at this year's parade, which he says will be a challenging task ahead.

- City will fund Pride Toronto, even as uniformed officers blocked from parade
- LGBT police officer 'disrespectful' by Pride Toronto decision to lack police



Nick Bolventi, Reporter, CBC Toronto

By opening it all up as an editor, when the senior pastor at the Metropolitan Church of Toronto.

"We have to live in the discomfort for a while, we have to face the pain, hear the stories," Hawkes told CBC Radio's Metro Morning.

In particular, he has been faced with a long-term issue about the LGBT community that hasn't been adequately addressed until very recently: anti-gay discrimination. Black Lives Matter Toronto staged a sit-in during the Pride parade, demanding a series of changes designed to address discrimination, particularly against black and transgender people.

A year later, Hawkes says the LGBT community is ready to face those changes.

"People are ready to have the conversation, people know we have to have the conversation," said Hawkes, who's delivered a Pride service for the last 25 years.

"I think it will be a difficult conversation."

Pride well-equipped to face challenges

While difficult, Hawkes said the conversation could be fruitful as well, written in part to the history of the event.

"I think that's always been there and it's always been there," Hawkes explained. "I think we have some breathing room and some time after this moment is over to have those conversations and see if there's a middle ground we can live on."

On the issue of uniformed officers, Hawkes acknowledged that while many people in the LGBT community feel unsafe around police, he'd like to see officers eventually return to the parade in full uniform.



Brent Hawkes, a retired pastor and LGBT activist, is seen at a Pride event in Toronto. (Photo by: [unreadable])

"That would be the ideal solution," he said, though he's not sure exactly how that could happen without disrupting the people who do not but still support uniformed police officers.

A new calling

Hawkes said he'll likely not play a large role in determining the solutions to racism in the LGBT community or in the role of police at Pride.

After his retirement from the church, Hawkes has plans to create an international organization linking religious LGBT people in the fight against religious-based homophobia, which he says remains the leading cause of homophobic discrimination around the world.

Hawkes believes that LGBT organizations are ill-equipped to combat those concerns, but LGBT people of faith will stand a much better chance.

"A religious attack requires a religious response," he said. "We have to have religious gay and lesbian people also involved in the discussion and that's what I want to be involved in."

Before that, he says he'll take some time to garden, golf and reflect on his career and accomplishments in Toronto and around the world.

"I think I've done what I've supposed to do," he said.

Reverend Brent Hawkes loses stage for his last Faith + Pride service

"It really infuriated me that ministers were getting priority over Brent Hawkes, who is one of our greatest heroes," said Douglas Elliott, a human rights lawyer and member of Pride Toronto.



Reverend Brent Hawkes has led the Faith + Pride service at Pride the week that he past. (Photo by: [unreadable])

By [unreadable] June 24, 2017

For more than two decades, Reverend Brent Hawkes has led a church service on the occasion of Toronto's Pride Parade.

In the end, he lost his Faith + Pride role of Maple Leaf Gardens. He'd brought his final independent event for the occasion. Last year, he preached at Pride's South Stage, at Church and Wood St., with the priest minister, presiding and never taking to the front row.

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"It has been a great experience for us to have through the years," Hawkes said. "The pastor and longtime LGBT activist is due to retire from the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto at the end of the year. This was to be his last Faith + Pride service."

Since 1991, Faith + Pride, formerly known as Church and Church, has been a staple of Toronto's Pride weekend. In recent years, events of congregations gathered at Pride's South Stage, just east of Maple Leaf Gardens.

Underneath, the South Stage is now ground zero for rallies, rallies and other mid-afternoon activities. The main event, however, is now a constant line along Church St. between Wood St. and Bay St. or across the MCC's long building for other options.

Initially, the MCC asked if Douglas Elliott, a human rights lawyer and member of Pride Toronto, is aware. The church ultimately turned this question down.

"We did some careful investigation and looking at the site, and determined that unfortunately, that site will not work for our service," said Rev. Donna Dewley in an address to the MCC's congregation last Monday. One of their reasons was that Faith + Pride might disrupt Sunday morning services at other churches near Allen Gardens.

"They suggested the Walkway Stage. And we thought, 'Oh, that's perfect,'" Hawkes said. But the church would not be on the ground. Instead, they would be on the stage. The church-owned walkway event has a history of being disrupted around Pride, Hawkes said, and the church didn't want this to happen again to him.

Pride is fully gone from the South Stage, but later changed their answer.

"Unfortunately, last week, Pride Toronto felt the need to withdraw that site for logistical reasons of their own," Dewley said in her address last Monday.

Hawkes said it was because events on the Walkway Stage that day, not just the church, would have enough time to cycle through sound checks and other pre-show preparations before that start time.

The church and Pride need back to the drawing board and had a re-conversation over whether the area around a Church St. would work for all the Faith + Pride events. The church had rejected it, the church thought it would not be a possibility.



As all of this, someone began circulating online about the not-included loss of Faith + Pride service.

On Wednesday, Hawkes issued a statement that rejected the notion of an attempt by Pride Toronto to marginalize the church's involvement in this year's festival.

"Much of this seems to have taken the form of claims that Pride Toronto had 'slandered' or 'included' Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto for various reasons," Hawkes said of those reasons. "This is simply not the case."

Hawkes, senior members of the LGBT community, reportedly those who support Pride Toronto's decision to bar uniformed police officers from the Parade this year, appear to believe this is true.

"People are kind of looking for a reason to not let Pride Toronto on the occasion, plain," said Jane Stewart, who's attended the MCC's weekly services, and, while she doesn't believe Faith + Pride is including the church, she has heard the discussion about the site.

"I believe it was a product of logistics, not that being truthful," Elliott said. "I know very well that a lot of people in my community -- and outside my community -- will perceive it to be exclusion or rejection. And that's not good for Pride Toronto."

Hawkes never acknowledged the anger was his congregation but about the logistical reason and able to support the Parade this year over the police issue.

"I think the majority of the congregation just wants that LGBT work out and that the leadership will make the right decision," he said. "That we have a very diverse congregation."

In the meantime, Pride Toronto said it's trying to work out a new deal with the church so that Faith + Pride can be held as planned.

"We are enjoying our work in connection with MCC Toronto," said Brent Hawkes, Pride Toronto's spokesman. "We want the service to obviously take place at Pride, and we're going to do our best to make sure that happens."

The discussion of placing a service, according to Elliott, including in one of Toronto's largest parks, also means that site may not be the best.

"It's the nature of large public planning," said Dewley in a statement shared by Hawkes.

"There's a Faith + Pride service that has to happen in a secure, secure facility while being processed on all levels [of the city]," he said. "We have a lot of things to do that ... That's a matter of understanding," Hawkes said.

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto's Faith + Pride will happen in the Pride Festival footprint June 25.

(TORONTO) ON June 21 (Pride Toronto and the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto) (MCC Toronto) have issued a statement that the Faith + Pride service for the annual Faith + Pride service (formerly Church on Church Stage). The service will take place at the Church Street Junior Public School on June 25.

Construction of new gardens at Church and Carlton already disrupted the South Stage space where Faith + Pride has been traditionally held. The result of displacement of all events supporting that space posed significant logistical issues and required re-allocating of events and programming to ensure space and timing needs were accommodated.

"Happy to say that Faith + Pride will be happening at the Church Street Junior Public School this year," announced Cathie Joseph, Pride Toronto's Interim Director. "The challenges were many, as is the case when the South Stage happens to such a large location. But we worked very hard and very closely with MCC Toronto to ensure that Faith + Pride, exactly where it should, and we're very much looking forward to it."

MCC Toronto and Pride have been the community how vital it is for Faith + Pride to occur within the Pride festival footprint, and committed to working together to ensure that events were held and their needs were met.

ABOUT PRIDE TORONTO:

Pride Toronto is not for profit organization with a mission to bring people together to celebrate the diversity, courage and vibrancy of our community. Using our overarching people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, the annual Pride Toronto festival has become a major Canadian arts and cultural event and



Statement from Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes to MCC Toronto and Pride: You have likely seen a lot of discussion about the venue for this year's Faith + Pride service. Much of this seems to have taken the form of claims that Pride Toronto had 'slandered' or 'included' Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto from participating in Pride this year for various reasons. This is simply not the case.

Construction of the new gardens at Church and Carlton has changed the South Stage footprint, eliminating the South Stage space where Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto's Faith + Pride formerly Church on Church Street has been traditionally held.

The Faith + Pride service is one of the long-standing and highly-valued Pride events featured each year. MCC Toronto and Pride Toronto recognized alternative options for the event, but none met logistical requirements, so the decision was made to host the service at MCC Toronto's church on Simpson Ave.

MCC Toronto and Pride have been the community how vital it is for Faith + Pride to occur within the Pride festival footprint, and we are committed to working together to ensure that events were held and their needs were met.

We will not be the changing footprint of the Pride Festival and accompanying logistical issues prevent this important event from occurring at Pride this year. Carefully, finding a suitable alternative venue presents a unique challenge and there have been many bumps in the road. In spite of this, MCC Toronto and Pride will continue to work on the issues. We are optimistic that together we will find a solution.

We've said all along that we are not abandoning Pride. We ask you to plan on it supporting the festival again this year. There are many organizations that make up the Pride community and to breach the festival is to breach the community. We are committed to working together to ensure that events were held and their needs were met.

Best,
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, C. B.
Senior Pastor
Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto

Event Poster

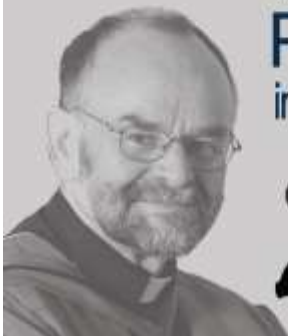
Church Street Schoolyard

83 Alexander Street, just north of Church St. and Carlton St.

The Nylons



Platinum Event Partner



Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto presents
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM
in his final Pride Toronto service before retirement.

ॐ June 25 **FAITH**
69 11:00am **Pride**

30 displayed at village businesses
and at MCC Toronto

Event Postcards



The postcard design features a large, stylized tree with a yellow trunk and branches, and leaves in various colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple). The tree's canopy is shaped like a cross. In the center of the cross is a circular logo for the Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto, which includes a cross and a dove. To the right of the tree, the date and time are listed: "June 25" and "11:00 am". Below this, the address is given: "83 Alexander Street", "Church Street", and "Public School". The main title "FAITH Pride" is prominently displayed, with "FAITH" in dark blue and "Pride" in rainbow colors. In the bottom left corner, there are logos for "Pride Toronto 2017 AFFILIATE EVENT", a wheelchair icon, and a transgender symbol.

June 25
11:00 am
83 Alexander Street
Church Street
Public School

FAITH
Pride

Pride Toronto 2017 AFFILIATE EVENT
♿️ 🏳️‍🌈



The postcard design features a black and white portrait of Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM, a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a clerical collar. The background is a light gray with a faint architectural pattern. The text on the postcard reads: "Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto presents Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM", "music by Diane Leah", "The Choir, Julie Mutesasira", "Mark Cassius, Higher Praise", and "and The Nylons". The signature "The Nylons" is written in a cursive font. At the bottom right, it says "Platinum Event Partner" and features the TD Bank Financial Group logo.

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto presents
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM
music by Diane Leah
The Choir, Julie Mutesasira
Mark Cassius, Higher Praise
and
The Nylons
Platinum Event Partner
TD Bank Financial Group

3000 printed

Online Promotion

Do you want a sticker here?

Faith+Pride

Tears from Heaven as Brent preaches his final Pride

You are here: Home / Sticker / Faith+Pride

Platinum Event Partner



Participation Form

There are so many ways to connect with our Pride activities! Fill out one of our participation forms to get involved!

VOLUNTEER!

Donations and Sponsorship

Would you like to make a donation to support our MCC Toronto 2017 Pride activities? Download and complete our Event Donor Form.

Looking for sponsorship information? Check out our 2017 Pride package.

FAITH Pride

Celebrate with us!



For over 25 years, MCC Toronto has held an outdoor worship service in the heart of the Village to kickoff Pride Sunday in Toronto. This is the final Pride worship service for our beloved Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes C.M., who has announced his upcoming retirement. This year's service has a new location!

Church Street Public School

Faith+Pride will be taking place on Sunday, June 25th at the Church Street Public School Yard at Alexander St (North of Carlton and East of Church St) and will begin at 11 a.m. sharp. The gates to the school yard are located on Mutual Street (just north of Wood St.) and will be opened at 10:30 a.m.

Please remember that there is very limited parking around the Pride Festival area, so public transit or Uber are probably your best options. The closest corner to be dropped off to the event space is Mutual and Alexander.

Also, the only entrance to the Faith + Pride service is the school yard on Mutual Street. Please do not use the other entrance on Alexander Street because this will be used exclusively for the Pride Fair

Activities

Finally, make sure to get there early because navigating to the entrance on Mutual Street might take you a few extra minutes.

[Directions to MCC Toronto's Pride Service](#)



Rev. Hawkes bids his flock farewell

[Beloved Toronto pastor preaches his final Pride](#)

After a quarter century of opening Pride Sunday in Toronto, Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes has announced that this is the last time he will preach at the annual Toronto festival.

Faith+Pride is an inclusive event that adds progressive spiritual vibrancy to the Pride Toronto festival. The Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto began holding the service in 1991. It is now recognized as the largest annual outdoor worship service in Canada, attracting more than 1500 congregants in 2016, including Mayor John Tory, Premier Kathleen Wynne and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. This year's service is expected to draw record crowds.

Rev. Hawkes has been the Senior Pastor at MCC Toronto since 1977. Under his direction, the church has grown from humble roots to become an internationally recognized beacon for human rights and social activism.

"We have faith and we have Pride," said Rev. Hawkes. "We want everyone to know that no matter who you are or how you identify, you are perfectly made in God's image. You are welcome here... welcome home."



Live Broadcast

We'll be broadcasting live from the service in the Pride festival grounds at 11:00 a.m. on June 25. Please join us in worship even if you can't be with us in person.

[Video](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Twitter](#)

Community Booth

Come see us during Pride at the MCC Toronto community booth in the Pride street fair. Our double booth is located at Church Street and Charles Street and is open all weekend! We'll have banquets for sale, family activities, a beautiful installation of rainbow prayer candles (it'll look wonderful at night), programs, and (best of all) hugs and smiles for everyone.

Hours of operation

- Friday 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Saturday 12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.



Pride Parade Sunday June 25, 2017

3:15 p.m. Meetup
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. March

Section K50 Bloor St. & Ted Rogers Way
Register <http://volunteer.mctoronto.com/pride>

823 views

Age Demographics

25-34	24%
45-54	22%
35-44	19%
55-64	18%
18-24	9%
65+	8%

Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto presents
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM
music by Diane Leah
The Choir, Julie Mutesasira
Mark Cassius, Higher Praise
and
The Nylons
Platinum Event Partner
TD Bank Financial Group

Community Guide

FAITH Pride

June 25, 2017, 11am
Church Street Schoolyard
Enter at 83 Alexander Street
Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes CM
in his final Pride service



3000 Community Guides printed and handed out all weekend at Community Booth and service



FAITH Pride Event Partners



BOSS PRINT
+ CREATIVE SERVICES



The Butler Did It

Explore volunteer opportunities
on our new volunteer website!

VOLUNTEER

volunteer.mcctoronto.com



Onsite Signage

Weekend long Community Booth



Stage Banners





Pride Day Service

Over 1000 attendees including

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of the Crown

Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of the Crown

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of the Crown

Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations

Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario and Jane Rounthwaite

Hon. Art Eggleton, Senator

Bill Blair, MP

Shaun Chen, MP

Julie Dabrusin, MP

Rob Oliphant, MP

Adam Vaughan, MP

Borys Wrzesnewskyj, MP

Salma Zahid, MP

Elizabeth May, OC MP, Leader of the Green Party

Catherine Fife, MPP Ontario

Cheri di Novo, MPP Ontario

Andrea Horwath, MPP, Leader of the Ontario NDP

Peter Tabuns, MPP Ontario

Peggy Sattler, MPP Ontario

Jagmeet Singh, MPP Ontario

His Worship John Tory, Mayor of Toronto

Ana Bailão, Toronto City Councillor

Joe Cressy, Toronto City Councillor

John Campbell, Toronto City Councillor

Kristyn Wong-Tam, Toronto City Councillor

Mary Fragedakis, Toronto City Councillor

Mike Layton, Toronto City Councillor

Chris Moise, TDSB School Board Trustee

Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario

Justin Vandette, Vice President of the Ontario PC Party

Jeff McGuire, Chief of Police, Niagara Regional Police Service

Superintendent Barbara McLean, Unit Commander, 55 Division

Olivia Nuamah, Executive Director of Pride Toronto

Live Webcast



Opening Titles for Live Stream



100 live viewers
19,600 reaches in the first 24 hours
7500 video views to date

Event Pictures



Post Event Webpage

Faith+Pride

Tears from Heaven as Brent preaches his final Pride

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Participation Form

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Rebecca, @rebeccahawkes

511 views

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