



THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FOR 40 YEARS



Diverse Beliefs. Common Values.
A Home for Queer Spirituality since 1970.

“COMMUNITY” IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

At MCCSF we don't just welcome you, we celebrate you— your gender, your sexuality, your spirituality, your passion.

Whether you Identify as Christian, Pagan, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, or Atheist – you have so much to offer the world.

If you are looking for a community that will stand with you on your personal faith journey, while striving together for social justice in the world, we'd love to be that community.

Come celebrate all of who you are – at MCCSF.

Visit us online: www.mccsf.org
Call for more information: 415.863.4434



A House of Prayer for all people since 1970.

Wednesday, 7pm Taize: Meditation, Contemplative Music
Sunday, 11am Progressive Traditional Worship
Sunday, 7pm High-Energy Music & Celebration



Metropolitan Community Church
Meets at 150 Eureka Street @18 St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

www.mccsf.org

Copy & Design by Kristine Poggioli
www.nonprofitcopy.com

MCCSF: THE CITY'S FIRST LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

Before structural issues caused us to close half of our 1906 era building, 2,000 people a week came through our doors for recovery groups, free meals, community and church events, and more.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1990s MCC defied city authorities to become a medical marijuana dispensary (to serve people living with HIV/AIDS)

Our Simply Supper Program served 100,000 meals before we lost use of our kitchen.

In the 1980s, MCCSF shared our worship space with a gay/lesbian Jewish congregation – and were fire bombed in an act of anti-semitism.

One year BEFORE Stonewall, Troy Perry founded the Metropolitan Community Church, 2 years later, MCC San Francisco began meeting -- in a bar.

The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence held their first fundraising event at MCCSF.

We were the first LGBT group in SF to own our own building.

During the height of the AIDS Pandemic in San Francisco we often conducted 5 funerals a week here.

During the Cuban boat crisis, Fidel Castro emptied his jails of criminals and LGBT people. The US State Department asked MCCSF to take the LGBT Cubans –we did.

One of the only church-school partnership in San Francisco is MCCSF and the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy.

Many music, community and AIDS/HIV groups had their beginnings at MCCSF including Act-Up San Francisco, the San Francisco AIDS Project, GAPA Men's Chorus, Project Inform....

In 1970 Rev. Troy Perry became the first person to file a gay-marriage challenge in a U.S. court. His annual request for a marriage license eventually led to the marriage lawsuit filed by famed attorney Gloria Allred in 2004 leading to the legalization of same-sex marriage.



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of SAN FRANCISCO

“COMMUNITY” IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

For four decades MCCSF has been a safe place for LGBT people to come together for political, spiritual, social, and AIDS activism. Together we've accomplished so much – and together we will continue the fight. You might be surprised at how our histories are intertwined...

In 1970, a group of queers dared to create their own church...

In 1970, MCCSF launched its first official church services – in a bar room.

As we slowly claimed our right to be spiritual, we ignited a new belief in our own sexual, political and human rights. MCCSF members took to the streets and we became a community church in every way.

For four decades we've organized politically to combat discriminatory local and state legislation, from fighting the 1977 Briggs Initiative (to fire lesbians and gays teachers) to protesting the treatment of Iraqi gays in 2009.

But it hasn't been easy. The most violent attack came in July of 1973, an arsonist burnt down the church in which we met. Two days later, 500 congregants, other members of the LGBT community and city and state political officials marched – with police protection – from the burned site to a new host church in the Mission District. Arson may have destroyed the building, but it did not destroy the church.

In 1979, members mortgaged their own homes to make MCCSF the first San Francisco LGBT group to own its own building --a dilapidated church at 150 Eureka Street in the Castro. The restrooms were little more than outhouses and it had substantial structural concerns. Very quickly we removed the orange shag



Performing same-sex weddings since 1971



MCCSF's rented church building destroyed by arson fire -1973



1973 Pride Parade



1979: MCCSF-one of the first LGBT organizations to own their own building.



MCF Simply Supper: 100,000 meals served

www.mccsf.org



carpeting and neon “Jesus Saves” sign hanging outside. We had a home for social justice work!

This new “queer” theology changes us...

MCC began as a short-term solution to homophobia in mainline churches, but soon we realized we would have to create our own “queer” spirituality.

The first step was feminist theology. At a time when gays and lesbians were at odds with one another, our mostly male congregation hired a female pastor, reached out to lesbians, and adopted gender-neutral language for God. By the 1990s we were all celebrating the feminine divine!

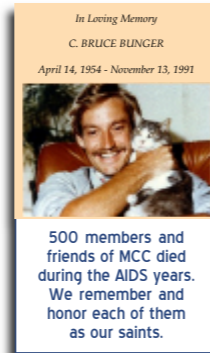
“As women, how do we find our way and speak our truth in a church and culture dominated by patriarchal theology?”

In the meantime the AIDS epidemic was devastating our church and community. It was not uncommon to

hold five memorial services a week. In the midst of this difficult time, MCCSF was on the front lines advocating for people living with HIV/AIDS – from offering rent-free space to AIDS groups to using our building as an illegal medical marijuana dispensary in the 90s.

We are the body of Christ, and we have AIDS

And we continued to expand spiritually. In 1985, we began sharing our worship space with a gay and lesbian Jewish congregation, Ahavat Shalom. During that time, a bomb was thrown through the glass window of our sanctuary.



After devastating loss, a new period of spiritual expansion and social justice work...

In the late 1990s, the advent of new medications miraculously transformed the lives of people with HIV/AIDS and changed the arc of the epidemic.

Given this blessing, the church began to look at other social issues facing the broader community. In 1997, we formed the Metropolitan Community Foundation as the church's social justice arm. We began a partnership with our local public elementary school, Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, providing a reading program, school supplies, and a part-time music teacher.

This tradition of involvement with core social justice issues for all people is a proud, historic legacy that continues today.

1980s

1990s

1970s

Through a variety of outreach programs we fed, showered, and clothed homeless people, sex workers, and LGBT youth. By the 2000s we were sponsoring an AIDS orphanage in Zimbabwe and buying Christmas gifts for homeless children. More than 2,000 people, including dozens of recovery and community groups, used our building every week – literally wearing it out.

2,000 people a week used our building

By the time structural problems closed half our building in 2006 we had served more than 100,000 meals!

Though we only have half a building to use now, we still have a whole heart and will continue seeking new expressions of social justice in our community.

A place where all bodies, genders, sexualities and spiritualities are valued, respected, and loved...

Over four decades we had embraced feminist theology, then liberation theology, social justice and AIDS activism and it opened us up to new expressions of spirituality; by 2003 we had hired a minister of Buddhist spirituality to offer weekly, non-Christian spiritual services.

Today MCCSF celebrates a theology that embraces sexual bodies as spiritual and sacred bodies – neither at the exclusion of the other. MCCSF speaks of a God/Goddess of many names and many images.



We are a queer spiritual center that serves as a sacred space for all people no matter what path to God they follow. Christians, Pagans, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Atheists worship here together.

At MCCSF we don't just welcome you; we celebrate all of who you are – your gender, your sexuality, your spirituality, your passion!



Thank You for Participating In An MCCSF 40th Anniversary Community Event

Together we are creating a world where every life matters and every person belongs.



Q-Sangha: one of many non-Christian services



Elementary School Partnership - reading, supplies, music teacher



MCCSF Rev. Jeff Bert Arrested at Prop 8 protest



2009 Pride Parade



MCCSF Rev. Lea Brown rallies crowd, condemns killing of Iraqi Gays