

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha

Search Packet

Pastor of Congregational Life



MCC Omaha

819 S 22nd Street

PO BOX 3173

Omaha, Nebraska 68103

(402) 345-2563

www.mccomaha.org

Search Closes: April 1, 2010



819 S. 22nd Street
Omaha, NE 68108

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Omaha, NE 68103

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(402) 345-2563

Website
www.MCComaha.org

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Council of Ministries

Sharon Van Butsel
Minister of Education

Linda Beckstead
Minister of Marketing

Susie Brenner
Minister of Music

Royal Bush
Minister of Hospitality

Michael DeVore
Deaconate Liaison

Kevin Marik
Minister of Community Service

Staff

Rev. Thomas Emmett III
Senior Pastor

Board of Directors

Michael Claar
Treasurer

DeWayne Greim
Financial Development

Scott Hays
Moderator

Susan Knutzen
Treasury Team

JoAnn Palmer
Clerk

Carla Petersen
Financial Development

January 25, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha is seeking a full-time Pastor of Congregational Life. We are looking for the right person to work with our Senior Pastor, Tom Emmett, our Council of Ministries, Deacons and Board of Directors to take our church to the next level. The church is prospering, and we are in a strategic position for continued growth and service to the community and region in the name of Christ.

This full-time position will be compensated at \$22,500, and includes health insurance (all premiums paid) and relocation costs up to \$2,500. The position will entail an administrative role not to exceed 30% of the work week. (We will work together to minimize time spent in administration.) Pastoral care, community relations, preaching (10-15 times per year) and your areas of passion will bring great opportunity for you and the community.

You'll need to have the health and energy to keep up with Pastor Tom and church leaders. We will assist the successful candidate in looking for and finding housing and in acclimating to your new home. While there is much work to do here in Omaha, we also recognize the value of time off. Your days off will be honored and your contract will include plenty of vacation and personal development days.

You won't find a lot of Bible quotations in this packet, but be assured we are a Christ-centered community. We strive to live out the good news in service, generosity, evangelism and education. We also work hard to make room for various theologies and approaches. We are both progressive and traditional. This dichotomy enriches us as we work together.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please provide the items requested in the Application Section of this packet by April 1, 2010. Mail your completed packet to us at the following address:

MCC Omaha
Pastoral Search
PO Box 3173
Omaha, NE 68103

May God continue to bless you as you serve the Body of Christ. You may phone Pastor Tom with any questions about the church, the position or the search process.

Peace & Friendship,

Rev. Thomas R. Emmett III

MCC Omaha & the LGBT Community

Omaha acts as a magnet for many people moving from rural communities and provides an active and vibrant LGBT community. Though Omaha is in a “red” state the city has recently turned “blue.” There is a progressive spirit in the city and the LGBT community here is strong, interconnected and vibrant.

In many ways Omaha is the gay capital of the Midwest as San Francisco is to the West Coast. Though Omaha is in a conservative part of the country, our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community has become increasingly visible and involved especially in monitoring legislation and filing court actions as it relates to Marriage and Holy Unions. Pastor Tom has conducted dozens of legal marriages in Iowa just across the river. Omaha was a pilot city in a national Hate Crime project. The Omaha GLBT community is actively involved in fund-raising, educational activities, direct care, support of people living with HIV/AIDS and underprivileged children.

The Metropolitan Community Church in Omaha, NE (MCC-O) is the only MCC church in Nebraska. MCC serves as the home church from many GLBT and straight persons in the Omaha and surrounding areas. In addition, many travel great distances to attend MCC’s religious and social activities. The MCC-Omaha congregation has strong ties and working relationships with many organizations that reach out to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Some of these organizations include Rainbow Celebrations (our Pride Group), Imperial Court, Neighbor’s United, Diamond Foundation, Nebraska Aids Project (NAP), First Lutheran Church, First Presbyterian Church, The First Unitarian Church of Omaha, The Max, Presbyterian Church of the Master, Rainbow Outreach Center, Latin@s, Onyx Images, PFLAG, First Baptist Church River City Mixed Chorus, and Heartland Gay Rodeo Association. These are just a few (and we mean that, just a few) of the outstanding organizations with whom we partner in the Omaha area.

Some individuals on behalf of these organization commented on how MCC-O serves the LGBT community.

Rainbow Out Reach Center, George Broadway states: “The Rainbow Outreach GLBT Center has long supported the MCC-O, and it has supported us for many years now. Their work in the community has been invaluable. Feeding those who are hungry. Giving comfort to those who are in need, no matter what the reason. And most of all, providing the spiritual guidance we all need, in our lives. I have never known them to turn their backs on anyone in need and I believe they go the extra mile to make a difference to both individuals and the community in general. I look forward to seeing the MCC-O prosper and grow in the future.”

Imperial Court, Paco Perez states: “What I know is that MCC has always worked very hard to support the GLBT community. They have made it so much easier for our community to continue their spiritual beliefs in a setting much like a large family. MCC Omaha has always been there to support and give to the less fortunate. From

helping the food pantry to opening their arms to those in need.”

Nebraska Aids Project, Brandi Bennett MSW states: “Metropolitan Community Church has been a complete asset to those living with HIV/AIDS in both Nebraska and Southwest Iowa communities. MCC offers spiritual support and guidance to many people in our community. The church pulls together and offers pantries to Nebraska AIDS Project’s clients who struggle to provide food for their families. This year MCC has provided 354 individual pantries that served 712 family members. The church provides a hot lunch to Nebraska AIDS Project clients one time a month. They have supported Nebraska AIDS Project for many years, and it is a very strong community partner.”

The City of Omaha

Contrary to popular imagery, we in Omaha don't live in corn fields and raise cattle for a living (well, some folks do). Omaha is a very big city with a small town heart.

Omaha, is large enough to offer a wide variety of cosmopolitan activities yet is small enough to provide a relaxed life-style. The Omaha/Council Bluffs/Lincoln metro area has a population of more than 1.7 million people within a 100 mile radius.

Omaha has a growing economy. Employment opportunities exist in the areas of education, insurance, health care services, railroads, telemarketing, construction, manufacturing, agriculture, retail, finance, military and service industries. While the nation's unemployment hovers around 10%, Omaha's unemployment rate is only 4.2%. Omaha ranks eighth out of the 50 largest cities in billionaires and Fortune 500 companies per capita, and no other city ranks higher in both categories. Our city is also served by major airlines and AMTRAK. We are centrally located between each coast, and we are within a day's drive to Denver, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, Des Moines and Kansas City.

Omaha offers many interesting and inviting activities at affordable prices. The relative prices of consumer goods and services are 11% below the national index of 100 for six major components: grocery items, housing utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. The work force in Omaha is in the top 25 best educated in the country. The median age is 34.8 years old. Omaha has a very large and vibrant Hispanic population and African American community.

Omaha is home to the Lied Transplant Center, Boys Town National Research Hospital, the University of Nebraska-Omaha, Creighton University, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Bellevue University, Metropolitan Community College and more.

Omaha offers an opportunity to experience a wide variety of social and cultural activities. Take your pick of the theater, opera, ballet, symphony, many concerts and performance art events in the new Holland Performing Arts Center and the magnificent Orpheum Theatre. The Qwest arena hosts numerous sporting events (such as the Olympic swimming trials) and stars such as Paul McCartney, U2, Shania Twain, Fleetwood Mac and the Rolling Stones. Perhaps you'll enjoy the Joslyn Art Museum, the world-renowned Henry Doorly Zoo, Lauritzen Gardens—Omaha's Botanical Center and the Children's Museum. All these activities within walking distance to five minutes drive from MCC Omaha.

For the sports-minded, Omaha offers professional and amateur hockey, arena football, the Omaha Royals Baseball, the NCAA College World Series, NCAA Volleyball Final Four and the Olympic swim trials. Outdoor fun opportunities include: boating, fishing, hiking, camping and swimming. The restoration of the riverfront has brought new businesses (Gallup University), buildings (National Park Service), trails and free summer concerts at Lewis and Clark Landing.

To See A Video on Omaha check out: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRk8gQqiFo4>

MCC Omaha

Our Beliefs

Mission: *To live, teach, proclaim and celebrate Christ's all-inclusive love.*

Vision: Our vision is in three parts. As we have made much progress on our vision, we may take a new look at it in 2010 or 2011 as we have made much progress.

We Share the Good News

We are a Christ-centered community that reaches out to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those in the LGBT and allied communities (especially those in spiritual need). We do this through the delivery of an energetic peer-led worship service, unparalleled Christian education and by working with like-minded organizations.

We Experience Generosity

We are a generous community. We demonstrate in our lives that our relationship to our money and resources is a spiritual one. We experience generosity in sharing our God-Given possessions, positions and power with others.

We Serve Others

We grow closer to God when we serve others. As a peer-led community we are the church that truly and deeply cares for others. Accessibility for all people to our worship and events is a priority. We engage in self-care by continually deepening and expanding our spiritual practices through education, generosity, worship, outreach, music and service.

Love, Appreciation & Trust

The MCC paradigm of Love, Appreciation and Trust (LAT) has been transformative for the church. It is normal for the language of LAT to be used regularly by church leadership. Here are our basic values that we seek to integrate into all that we do:

- We invite others to share in the journey:* Invitation, real invitation, is the key to successful ministry.
- We seek and accept input from those affected by a decision:* People have more investment in something when they are asked.
- We use our passions to fulfill the mission of the church:* We help folks identify what their passion is.
- We assume good intentions of others and act with good intentions:* We believe that people are good and that the road to heaven is paved with good intentions.
- We communicate in an open and timely fashion:* Doing this is the biggest conflict preventer.
- We create opportunities for growth in our challenges:* Friction is an opportunity for elevation and connection between people.

MCC Omaha Our Church

Our History:

MCC Omaha was chartered in January, 1974. Since then, we've met in several locations, moving here to 819 S. 22nd Street in 1992. From our origin in two store-front buildings with a group of 12 at the first service, we grew to over 100 members the first year. We reached our largest membership in the mid-90s when we had 166 members. Conflict diminished the church to under 50 members. This conflict, distressing as it was, prepared the way for the current growth, health and abundance. Today, the church thrives.

Some Random Facts About MCC Omaha:

- Official Members = 120 (including children)
- Average weekly attendance 130 (+/- 25)
- Average annual growth in membership = 15%
- Average annual growth in attendance = 20+%
- Average annual growth in general fund giving = 20%
- Percentage of people of color who attend regularly is greater than 20%
- Over the last three years, outside designated giving, fund raising and in-kind gifts have effectively matched our general fund giving.
- The church is paid for, and MCC Omaha has no debts.
- Our social hall has been remodeled. We have three new restrooms, a new meeting room, a newly painted sanctuary, new carpet is on the way along with a sunroom and new lighting.
- In 2008 the Sanctuary became accessible to individuals in wheelchairs.
- The church sits on about 10 lots of land in downtown Omaha.
- We work on a monthly basis with 19 other churches.
- The church is governed by a Council of Ministries and a Board of Directors.
- Pastor Tom is becoming fluent in Spanish and has an interest in that community.
- Our two Sunday worship services are blended (leaning contemporary)
- Our Wednesday night service is in the Taize style, is led by the laity and is our fastest growing service.

Some of Our Ministries Include (We have about 50):

- Children's Christian Education
- Family Activity Days
- Celebrative Worship Team
- Community Meals (Feeding Homeless)
- Creating a Life that Matters
- Hospitality Team
- Prayer Team
- LifeSong (our Praise Band)
- Marriage Action
- Nebraska AIDS Project Luncheons
- Neighbors United (Coalition of Churches)
- Panera Bread Distribution
- Would Jesus Discriminate?
- Community Garden

Pastor of Congregational Life

Basic Job Description

Ministry:

- Minister the Good News to God's people.
- Assist the senior pastor in fulfilling his role as the primary spiritual leader, vision caster, pastor, and teacher of the church.
- Provide pastoral counseling and referral to those in need.
- Coordinate, with the Diaconate and the Pastor, Pastoral Care
- Assist the senior pastor with projects as requested.
- Participate in leading the church services as required. Preach about once every month.
- Monitor the church ministries and alert the senior pastor of any areas of concern.
- Assist in developing, organizing and giving leadership to the ministries within the church.
- Assist the Pastor with funerals and weddings as requested and needed.
- Work with the Deacons and members of the Council of Ministries to achieve goals
- Identify areas of personal passion as consistent with church mission, vision and culture and pursue those as well.
- Coordinate with the Pastor to ensure solid representation of the church at public events and in organizations that MCC Omaha is a part of.

Administrative:

- Attendance & Retention Tracking and Overall integrity of Servant Keeper data (not to include financial)
- Supervise regular communication via Constant Contact
- Coordinate office volunteers
- Work with Pastor Tom and the worship team to ensure the timely production of the bulletin, liturgist assignments, training and schedules.

(Volunteers are already in place for some of the above administrative tasks. Over time, the Pastor of Congregational Life should work with the Pastor and key church leadership to find appropriate and suitable volunteers for some of these duties so that the Pastor of Congregational Life can pursue work more pertinent to their qualifications.)

Metropolitan Community Church of Omaha
Pastor of Congregational Life Questionnaire

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Licensing: _____ Who is Your Elder: _____

Length of Service at Present Position: _____

Are you currently licensed with UFMCC: _____

Date of Licensing: _____

If you are not currently licensed, what is your anticipated date of Licensing?

Application

To help us get to know you and your qualifications, please provide the following personal information for our review:

Statement of Calling

Statement of Faith (This is not a text for “orthodoxy,” be yourself)

A video of a recent sermon (VHS, DVD, or YouTube or other link ok, must be audible)

Three to Five Professional References

Date Available to begin duties

Resume of employment

Please respond to the questions on the following page . . .

Pastor of Congregational Life Search Questions

Why are you considering relocating?

Have you ever been disciplined, terminated or had your professional credentials revoked by any church or denomination? If so, why?

Describe your formal educational background. (Include specific information regarding any counseling or guidance courses or training.)

Share how you have demonstrated leadership in professional or volunteer activities.

What are the priorities in your ministry?

What areas of ministry are you passionate about?

Tell us about the people who mentor you.

What are your strengths and weaknesses as a pastor?

What frustrates you?

Describe your preaching style.

Please share your personal short and long term goals.

What is your idea of a successful church?

How would you describe your approach in managing volunteers?

Anything else you would like to share?

Thank you for your application. Again, the due date is April 1, 2010

You may mail your application to:

MCC Omaha

Pastoral Search

PO Box 3173

Omaha, Nebraska 68103