



Fall 2018 Congregational Meeting General Reports

Note: See separate documents for Senior Pastor's Report and Treasurer's Report.

I. Spanish Ministry / ICM (Rev. Alejandro Escoto)

Annual Report, November 2018

La Iglesia Fundadora de la Comunidad Metropolitana Los Ángeles

Submitted by Reverend Alejandro Escoto

Pastor, ICM Fundadora Los Ángeles, Minister of Spanish Speaking Ministries

La Iglesia Fundadora de la Comunidad Metropolitana Los Ángeles (ICMF Los Ángeles) continues to be a culturally relevant and spiritually enriched Faith Community that celebrated 26 years of outreach to the Hispanic/Latinx Community in June of 2018. ICMF Los Angeles brings together Hispanics/Latinxs and their allies from various parts of North America. The fruit of 2017-2018 are highlighted below:

- **“Voces de Alabanza”, The ICM Fundadora Choir, directed by Peter Kirkpatrick;** “Voces de Alabanza” not only sings on Sunday, they also perform at other events as a way of promoting the church.
- **Bienestar’s World AIDS Day event at La Placita Olvera** (December 1)
- **Altar for Día de los Fieles Difuntos/Day of the Dead and All Saints Day** and in 2018 at the this cultural expression of Hispanic Culture was presented both in the church and at the **Hollywood Forever Día de los Muertos Altar event.**
- **Service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12th** with special performance by El Mariachi Arcolris
- **Service honoring the Black Christ of Esquipulas,** (January 2018), the Black Christ is venerated in parts of Mexico and Central America and is gaining popularity in parts of Los Angeles other cities in the U.S.
- **La Pasión de Cristo - The Passion of Christ** (Palm Sunday), Spanish language play
- **The Easter Sunrise Service,** Sponsored by ICM Fundadora Los Ángeles
- **Las Memorias El Albergue/Las Memorias,** Tijuana, Mexico Outreach
- **“Day at the Beach”** Sponsored by ICM Fundadora Los Ángeles
- **Participated in Pride 2018** in West Hollywood
- **Participated in Models of Pride 2018** in CalState Los Angeles
- **Tempo Night Club Outreach** celebrated its 3rd year of outreach in November of this year. This program was started by Gev Aviles and Martin Covarrubias
- **Liturgical, Pastoral and Eucharistic Lay Ministers Training** prepares individuals to serve within the context of Sunday Worship Services as well as reaching out to those who require pastoral care.
- **Grupo LOVE, Lesbianas Obteniendo Vidas Exitosas** (Group LOVE, Lesbians obtaining successful lives). A Spanish language support group facilitated by Gloria Torres. Held every Monday at the Bienestar South Los Angeles location
- **Amigos del Tiempo** (Friends of Time). A Spanish language support group facilitated by Adolfo Contreras every Monday at ICMF/FMCC.
- **“Reflexiones Espirituales”** A Spanish Speaking Bible Study facilitated by Corena Montoya and Louie Jimenez.
- **Spiritual sponsorship of LGBTQ+ Immigrants,** Rev. Alejandro often writes letters of support and/or accompanies individuals to court who are seeking political asylum, residency or citizenship.

- **Sensitivity and LGBTQ+ Acceptance Training prepared by Rev. Alejandro** was presented at Planned Parenthood, CalState Northridge Sociology classes, UCLA future educators, Chaffey College.
- **Collaborating with and participating in the First Annual Thanksgiving Banquet of Love**, an outreach event to our city's LGBTQ+ youth (ages 14-25) sponsored by FMCC/ICMF and held at Founders MCC's fellowship hall and theater.

II. Board Reports

A. Governance Committee (Dean Coffey)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

Facilitated the Spring 2018 Congregational Meeting where Dean Coffey and Bob Stayton were re-elected to 3-year terms, and Art Fisher was elected to fill a one-year term. Negotiated the new Pastoral Contract, set compensation and benefits, and completed hiring following election at a Special Congregational Meeting.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

In anticipation of our faithful treasurer, Oyie Esguerra, completing two terms of service on the Board of Directors, we plan to organize a Finance Committee or similar governance structure within the Board of Directors to oversee an appointed treasurer.

In July 2019, we will send Rev. Mazingo, Rev. Escoto, Music Minister Jane Syftestad (serving as Worship Leader), and Lay Delegates to the MCC General Conference in Orlando, FL to represent us at this historic 50th Anniversary Meeting where our next Moderator for the denomination will be elected.

B. Stewardship Committee (Tony Martinez)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

We had a soft launch for the Stewardship program on October 29, 2017. The campaign was being led by Rev. Bruce Calkins, Reverend Alex, Rev. Onetta and I assisted Rev. Bruce. We had testimonials during the subsequent weeks. The theme for this campaign was Giving Out of Gratitude that tied in with the series of sermons "Living Generously." As of September 30, 2018 we have had a total of 48 estimates of giving for the total annual amount of \$109,316.00. Currently the total amount collected has been \$93,396.29. As of the 3rd quarter, we are at 85% of our goal. We are short only (\$14,159.82). We are doing very well and right on track.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

On Stewardship Commitment Sunday we received approximately \$92,000 in giving estimates. This is more than 4x the amount estimated on the first Commitment Sunday last year. We are on track to far exceed last year's total estimates of giving of \$109,316. We invite the congregation to complete estimate of giving cards by first prayerfully considering how much you give to Founders MCC and estimate by *FAITH* what God may be calling you to give in 2019 to expand the ministries and reach of our mission to our community and to the world.

C. Property & Facilities Committee (Dean Coffey & Bob Stayton)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

Sewer system in church basement repaired and reconnected to city sewer system. Upper tile roof repaired, broken tiles replaced, and resealed. Landscape & Courtyard project – nearly done with new plants in front, stairs repainted and rebuilt in rear courtyard. Sign and courtyard lighting repaired. Preschool deck at rear of property removed and rebuilt.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

Three-Year Nonprofit Security Grant Proposal fully funded at \$101,200. through the California Office for Emergency Services. Grant funding includes construction materials and professional installation. Planned security upgrades include replacement of 10 exterior doors-Heavy Panel with hinge sets; Attic-Roof bulkhead door-steel; Panic hardware-rim series; Door closers commercial grade; Replacement of 12 ground floor R&R Aluminum window, horiz. slider 12-23 sf (2 pane shatter resistant); Install Window Guards-steel grates; Security system control panel with police call function, motion detectors, in high risk room areas; 110-volt commercial wiring; independent cell phone alarm caller; panic alarm button. Exterior spotlights with motion sensors. Remote entry system - side door and gate; Lockset-passage-commercial grade; Push-pad keyless entry units. Intercom - Master station - Premium grade with entry system; Intercom - Remote station. CCTV panel & equipment; CCTV camera & brackets: 4-sides, sanctuary, side doors, preschool entries.

Presentations & Trainings for Congregation (Two trainings per year)

1. Stop Hate and Respect Everyone (S.H.A.R.E.) training program - Joint training sponsored by the Museum of Tolerance, L.A. County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff's Department to combat hate and intolerance in community settings.
2. Use Your Abilities to Survive an Active Shooter - Los Angeles Police Department Active Shooter Training Video
3. FEMA Emergency Management Institute IS-505 Religious & Cultural Literacy and Competency - A 4-course training for congregations in religious and cultural literacy and competency

Writing this grant proposal was a collaborative effort among the Property and Facilities Committees, and Security Team. Volunteer roles on the grant include Administrators Rev. Keith Mozingo & Dean Coffey; Project Manager David Sorlie; Construction Bid Manager Bob Stayton; and Security Consultant Don Mueller. Special thanks to each of these leaders for their expertise in writing the grant proposal and for volunteering their time and energy to make our church a safer place to worship.

III. Vision and Values Team (Kim Doneche)

A. 2018 Accomplishments.

At the beginning of the year, we encouraged and supported the Congregation's discernment of Spirit's vision for our church through words, art and images displayed at the back of the Sanctuary. Shared a proposed Vision Statement representing a distillation of the art, images and words. In the spring, we solicited creative works from the Congregation inspired by the proposed Vision Statement. The various artist's inspired works were displayed in the performance space and throughout the sanctuary for several months. During this time the VVT prayed for discernment of the Congregation's Mission Statement. In late July, God placed upon our hearts a statement that evolved into the Mission Statement presented for our affirmation and acceptance later in the meeting. This year we hosted several successful Saturday Evening Movie Nights, serving popcorn, refreshments and snacks.

B. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

With the Congregation's anticipated affirmation and acceptance of the proposed Vision and Mission Statements during the Congregational meeting, the purpose and mission of the Vision and Values Team will end and the group can be disbanded. However, we would like to continue to host occasional Saturday Evening Movie Nights and are most excited about what God (and Rev. Keith) will call us to do next, whether as a group or individually, to bring FMCC's mission to actuality.

IV. Lay Delegates (Lee Te, Amy LaCoe & Corena Montoya)

A. 2018 Accomplishments.

Attended the Western Networking conference (active shooter training, Diversity and Inclusion workshop, Conflict and Resolution workshop and participated in Western conference business plan) at MCC Las Vegas. Voted for the Assessment Survey conducted by the denomination in August 2018. Conducted survey regarding voting on denomination's assessment rate for the Special denominational meeting Nov 7 2018 - wherein we received 62 ballots 63% voted to retain assessment at current rate 37% voted to change. Two lay delegates voted to retain assessment at 11%, 1 voted to change to 10%. Corena attended as many board meetings as possible, thank you, Corena.

B. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

Inform Members on Updates for the 2019 General Conference in Orlando, FL

Create Survey for the congregation so we would know how to vote for the moderator and governing board for the 2019 General Conference. Do our best to support other ministries of the church.

Partner with other ministries for fundraising of the general fund.

V. Worship Ministry

A. Coordination (Rev. Onetta Brooks)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

Scheduled a variety of preachers for 9 and 11 am worship services during the transition period until the senior pastor arrived on June 1.. Regular collaboration with the Creative Worship team, Worship participant coordinator, Multimedia team, Usher/greeters, Vision & Values team, powerpoint production, bulletin production team and our Music Director to create space and opportunity for quality worship for congregants, including holiday, and special occasion worship. Spirit-filled worship happens at Founders!

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019 – See Pastor’s Report.

B. Creative (Larry Rodriguez).

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

a. In collaboration with Reverend Onetta Brooks, the Creative Team planned and shaped these worship service series and special worship services:

- 1) A Season of Epiphany (January 7 – February 11, 2018)
- 2) Going Far Beyond Our Seeing (February 18 – March 18)
- 3) Palm Sunday – Holy Week – Easter Sunday (March 25 – April 1)
- 4) Pastoral Candidacy of Reverend Keith Mazingo (April 8)

b. In June, 2018, with the arrival of Reverend Keith Mazingo, the Creative Team began a new phase working collaboratively with our new Senior Pastor. Together, we planned and shaped these worship series and special worship services:

- 1) Ordinary People For Extraordinary Times (July 8 – 29)
- 2) Taking A Step For Change: Preparing For Recovery Month (September 2—23)
- 3) Service of Installation (September 9)
- 4) 50th Anniversary Themed Series (September 30 – October 14)
- 5) 50th Anniversary Celebration Service (October 7)
- 6) We’re On A Mission (Stewardship Series) October 21 – November 4)

2. Goals & Opportunities for Remainder of 2018 and 2019.

a. Continue exploring ways to enhance the worship experience, beginning with the new Advent Series 2018 (beginning December 2).

b. Work with other worship-focused teams to develop a plan for updating physical and technological features of our worship space in order to facilitate the worship experience.

C. **Music (Jane Syftestad).** I want to first express my gratitude to the congregation of Founder's for a continued commitment to my work. After 12 years as the Director of Music at Founders, I covet your prayers, your support and your input as to making our worship in music take us to the next stage in our mission and vision.

1. We continue to research and find new music for worship. I work with the Creative Team to pray and imagine as we create sermon series, art and worship design, and services that will incorporate transformative opportunities for regular attendees and newcomers to experience God's unconditional love. This year our choir, Founder's Voices, as well as our ICM choir, Voces de Alabanza, have learned and produced contemporary songs for worship, and incorporated innovative methods of infusing music into our experience of worship. I want to thank Peter Kirkpatrick for his dedication to the Voces de Alabanza, Larry Rodriguez for his expertise in organ and designing the music for the 9am service, and the unwavering dedication of my choir members, Len Evans, J. Michael Johnston, David Solis, Lorenzo Mendoza, Roger Owens, Scott Nash, and Jalen Bell-Syftestad, (and Camille Araullo-Syftestad on secret microphone from the sound board) for always reaching above and beyond for the sake of worship.

2. **Goals & Opportunities for 2019.** I want to first announce that I am the Director of Music for our next General Conference, the 50th Celebration, in Orlando, Florida next July. And I am even more excited to announce that Peter Kirkpatrick will be the assistant lead for Music at the conference. Also, our 11am band- Garrett Wolfe, Susan Horn, and Jeff Sorenson, will serve as the house band for the conference. We will need your support and your MONEY to help the band get to the conference!!! In the meantime, let's be proud and congratulate our musicians for rising to the top positions in our denomination at this crucial and celebratory time in MCC history!!

In 2019, we hope to:

- 1- Be able to once again pay for our drummer. Currently, anonymous donors have funded the drummer position, but this fund will end as of the new year.
- 2- Raise funds to send our 11am band to General Conference in Orlando, July 2019. This will cost approximately \$2500 per band member.
- 3- Recruit and sustain more choir members.
- 4- Explore new ways of integrating music into worship.
- 5- Expand our worship team to include youth.

I thank you for continuing to put your faith and your voice in my call as music minister. God is always moving, our church is my home, and I appreciate each voice, in singing form or in encouragement and suggestion. God is good all the time!

D. **Multimedia & Internet (Camille Araullo).**

1. **2018 Accomplishments.**

We continue to broadcast our 3 services every Sunday, utilizing the time and talents of our committed volunteers, saving the church from incurring expenses to hire paid staff to work Multi-media. In 2018, our volunteers have donated over 258 hours. We have

also been able to provide multi media coverage for other non-service related events, such as weddings, funerals, and concerts.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

We would love to be able to have more people join the team.

We'd love to be able to offer a training on the fundamentals of creating a sensory-rich worship experience from a multimedia perspective.

We'd love to have newer equipment!

E. Deaf Ministry (Lucia).

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

FMCC strengthened its commitment to serving our deaf sisters and brothers by increasing the compensation for ASL interpreters to a rate more competitive with the discounted scale for "special" non-profits (like 12-Step meetings). This had made it possible to bring more substitute interpreters onto our team. The church also "went an extra mile" to provide interpreter services for the 50th Anniversary banquet, and to pay two interpreters for the unusually long 50th Anniversary worship service.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

What our ministry really needs is outreach! Interested volunteers can contact deafministry@mccla.org.

F. Archives Committee (Lucia).

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

Displays and Presentations

The Committee concluded a series of decade-by-decade MCCLA/FMCC history **photo exhibits during Pride Week 2018**, and combined all of the decade exhibits for a **display during FMCC's 50th Anniversary celebration**. We also developed a plan to present ***Our Golden Journey***, a series of videos that were to be presented at the beginning of worship services on the first Sunday of the month, leading up the 50th Anniversary. Unfortunately, due to a lack of sufficient volunteers with video editing skills, only the first three of the original 13 videos have been produced thus far. We hope that we can restart production of the remaining videos soon.

On Saturday of Anniversary weekend, the Committee hosted a **tour of previous MCCLA/FMCC houses of worship**. For the Anniversary Sunday worship service, the Committee produced a compilation of **congratulatory videos** from around the denomination, a **video montage recalling the world in 1968** when MCC was born, and a series of **videos honoring the eight senior pastors** of MCCLA/FMCC.

2. **Goals & Opportunities for 2019.**

New Projects and Ongoing Work

- ✚ The Committee plans to produce a **50th Anniversary Souvenir Calendar** (Jan. 2019-Dec. 2020) for sale, with hopes to sell it at home and at General Conference (along with other videos and collectables).
- ✚ We continue **digitizing printed, audio, and video materials** that we have acquired as we develop a prototype for a **digitized library** that can be accessed on the FMCC campus. (Note that the displays and presentations have involved the rudimentary beginnings of the extensive process of identifying pictures and sources for cataloging.)
- ✚ We will be setting up a **DropBox account** where people can upload their pictures of church activities.
- ✚ We have recognized a need to make a **list of FMCC pioneers**, identify people from different eras.
- ✚ We need to work with the tech crew and other groups who use FMCC's **audio/video facilities** on upgrading equipment and improving systems.
- ✚ Although the Committee's work involves preserving and presenting FMCC's own property, the church provides no funding for this effort in its budget (unlike funding for other church property like the building, etc.). We will continue to do **fundraisers** (raffles, etc.) to support the care of FMCC's historical treasures.
- ✚ The Archive Committee would like to **thank Mark Hahn** for serving as the official photographer for FMCC (and for the denomination), and we congratulate him on his retirement. We look forward to working with the new photographer when one is called and appointed. The Committee can be contacted at archives@mccla.org.

II. **Pastoral Search – 2018 Accomplishments (Jenni Nichols)**

After a unanimous decision to elect Rev Keith Mzingo on April 8, 2018, he arrived for his first worship service on June 3rd. The Pastoral Search Committee then executed a successful installation weekend on September 8 and 9. Our call as an active committee of the church was disbanded at the end of the Installation Worship Service. The Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their steadfast faith in our process.

III. **Spirituality and Community.**

A. Kids Club (Dean Coffey & Maggie Ferrell)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

The Kids Club Team prepares lessons each Sunday to ready for any children we have in church at the 11 a.m. service. Special thanks to our teachers & assistants, and Maggie Ferrell, our Coordinator.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

We are starting to have the children start in the 11 a.m. worship service and be dismissed after the first worship songs to raise the congregations awareness of our children and for them to know that we are a church family and our children are

important. We are in need of a few more teachers and assistants.

B. Bayanihan (Camille Araullo)

3. 2018 Accomplishments.

We continue to meet every 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, and have invited guest facilitators who have shared their knowledge and wisdom with the group.

4. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

Intentional outreach efforts to other Filipino groups.

Participate in Filipino-centric activities to talk about Founders MCC.

C. Trans*Unity Ministry Report (Ina Serene & Amy LaCoe)

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

No matter our sexual orientation or gender identity, we are all born into a world that fragments and confuses our identities. We are all broken in some way, all somewhere along this journey. As such, we recognize that no one should be left behind. Trans*Unity supports all (LGBTQ&I) who have been neglected or otherwise rejected by society.

Fund-raising activities for Award Programs

FMCC yard-sales – 3 Saturday mornings

Hosting Hospitality, 3 Sundays for the 3 FMCC services

Support for undocumented transgender folks

Christine Daniels Annual Student Fellowships

Four student awards in 2018 (\$500 each)

Pastoral Care activities

Sharon Parker (Long Beach)

Mary Anne Newman (Pomona)

Laura Law (Hospital St Vincent's)

T*U Business and Social Activities

Christmas party (Pasadena) Lay delegate (Amy LaCoe) activity

Monthly business meetings

Friday-eve monthly activities, St Johns Trans Center, LA

Exhibitors table, Transgender Pride (LGBT Center, LA)

Exhibitors table, LA Proud Weekend (Pershing Square)

FMCC Services, Transgender Day of Remembrance

Attendance 1 Sunday, SD-Met church (San Diego)

T*U Officers 2018

Chair, Ina Serene

Treasurer, Amy LaCoe

Secretary, Christine Miller

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019.

We are all in this together, can't do this without the support and donations of FMCC congregation. Thank you all!

D. Azania: People of African Descent (Lucia).

Azania has continued to be on **hiatus** through this year and is seeking new leadership. The goals of Azania are to promote camaraderie among FMCC's Members of African Descent and our families, to celebrate and raise consciousness about African American culture and worship, and to do outreach into the African American community. Anyone who shares these goals is welcomed to join. The group can be contacted at azania@mccla.org.

E. Pride (Rev. Alejandro Escoto)

1. **2018 Accomplishments:** Rev. Alex along with other key volunteers (Norm Cox, J Michael, Mark McAlistar, Roger Owens, Corena Montoya, Enrique Hernandez and others) created a float and marched in the parade in honor of FMCC's 50th Anniversary. Over 60 anniversary t-shirts were sold and over 30 volunteers marched.

2. **Goals & Opportunities for 2019:** Create a committee that will oversee Pride 2019 with the intention of fundraising and organizing volunteers.

E. Women's Spirituality Group (Lucia).

The purpose of the WSG is to provide its members with a means for gathering for Woman-Specific worship, recreation, and social activism. Cis-gender and transgender women of FMCC raise consciousness within the congregation about women's issues and herstory, and take FMCC's message out into the women's community. The WSG has continued to be on **hiatus** through this year, and is seeking renewed energy. The group can be contacted at womensgroup@mccla.org.

IV. Compassion and Justice.

A. Pastoral Care (Pamela Fairbanks & Rev. Alejandro Escoto)

3. **2018 Accomplishments:** (1) a Facebook Closed Group was created to inform the Prayer and Pastoral Care Team of people's needs, prayers and praises. Various people have access to post and use the FB group as a way to keep people connected. (2) The prayer team and Pastoral Care Team continued to call, reach out and visit people in the hospital. On average, 3 phone calls or people were visited per week.

4. **Goals & Opportunities for 2019:** (1) Provide Pastoral Care training and (2) Increase the visibility of the Pastoral Care and Prayer Team; (3) Make the Pastoral Care and Prayer Team available peer and spiritual support; (4) Provide a Prayer Box so that people can write a note seeking prayer or offer a praise.

B. Social Justice Ministries (Lucia & Troy Elder).

1. 2018 Accomplishments.

Sanctuary Task Force

When FMCC committed “to be supportive of and in solidarity with the Sanctuary Church Movement” at our April, 2017 Congregational Meeting, this Task Force was given several objectives, including “Evaluating FMCC’s options for participating in the Sanctuary Church Movement.” In 2018 we zeroed in on a **Pen Pal program** organized by the non-profit group Freedom for Immigrants. The Task Force recruited FMCC members to be paired with immigration detainees in Adelanto, CA and other detention centers to provide relationships of mutual accompaniment, and co-hosted a training session for prospective Pen Pals at the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. (The event also included a tele-conference with Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Kahn-Cullors about the Reform L.A. Jails Initiative.) Trained and registered volunteers are in the process of being paired with LGBTQI or other detainees.

“The Resistance”

In addition to participating in immigration/detention/family separation **demonstrations**, FMCC members have been active in actions in support of environmental issues, women’s rights, services for people without permanent residences, and anti-violence and anti-racism movements, in addition to advocacy for LGBTQ rights – but often as individuals. In 2019, the Social Justice Team would like to find ways to alert members to upcoming actions and arrange ways for us to participate in groups. There are also various petition and letter-writing campaigns that FMCC’ers would be interested in. If you would like to help facilitate Social Justice **communications**, email justice@mccla.org.

A couple of volunteers came forward to work on a **voter registration** campaign ahead of the 2018 Mid-Term Elections, but 50th Anniversary activities put too much of a drain on FMCC’s “human resources.” However, there’s always another election coming up, and registering people to vote is another way to reach out to the community. Email justice@mccla.org to volunteer.

2. Goals & Opportunities for 2019

We look forward to expanding social justice programs in 2019. Interested volunteers can email justice@mccla.org.