

**Pastor's Report**  
**Fall Congregational Meeting, November 18, 2018**

Dear Saints,

During the five months since you called me to be your Senior Pastor, I have spent much of my time getting to know you all better, getting to know the teams and staff better, and learning the general operations of the church. With the Creative Team/Staff, I've been working to make sure our worship time is meaningful and uplifting. With Rev. Alejandro Escoto, I've been working diligently to build relationships with our interfaith community, reconnecting with some people I worked with before as well as making new acquaintances. It has truly been a blessing to see what has been happening so far, much that was started before I arrived: the 50th Anniversary weekend, my installation weekend, the development of the Mission and Vision statements, the "face-lift" on our building, and the development of several sermon series.

Since being elected your Senior Pastor, I have, with the help of lots of "FMCC angels," had the opportunity to:

- Secure an apartment and move to Los Angeles.
- Join FMCC.
- Be installed as your Senior Pastor, attending all Installation weekend activities.
- Participate in the Vision and Values Team, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Team, Facilities and Property Teams, Creative Worship Team, Pastoral Search Team.
- Moderate monthly Board of Directors meetings.
- March with the FMCC contingent in the Christopher Street West Pride Parade.
- Participate in the FMCC Pride worship service.
- Attend the monthly movie nights.
- Meet with prospective church members (four joined the church).
- Facilitate two Bible Studies.
- Meet with groups renting space in our facility.
- Make several hospital visits.
- Hold several pastoral care sessions.
- Participate in Glen Payne's memorial.
- Attend the Patrice Ford concert.
- Participate in the Latino Healing Service.
- Relocate the Pastor's office (after painting and carpet installed).
- Make some small changes to the order of worship.
- Make some changes to the e-news and worship bulletin.

- Add some visuals to the worship service.
- Graduate from the Creating a Life that Matters class.
- Baptize 41 people in water.
- Get equipment installed to enhance our worship.
- Participate in “Spring Cleaning Day” at FMCC.
- Purchase some altar-ware and cleaning supplies for the church.
- Socialize with members for the 9:00, 11:00, and 1:30 services.
- Attend the annual FMCC Beach Party.
- Meet with a church financial consultant and church insurance agent.
- Implement sermon series, including: 12-Step Recovery, Stewardship, Advent.
- Introduce a Time & Talents card to document our hours of Community Service/Ministry.
- Participate in the Friday evening, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.
- Attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Somos Loud Gala to witness Rev. Alejandro Escoto receive the Pedro Zamora Award for his outreach to the Latin Community.

On the denominational level, I have:

- Reached out to Rev. Rachele Brown to offer condolences after the death of her mother.
- Worked with the Board of Directors of Good Samaritan MCC and our Network Team Leader, Jude Litzenger, to bring some grief support as well as future planning for their church in the wake of Rev. Gina Chapman’s illness and subsequent death.
- Reach out to former pastors of FMCC/MCCLA.
- Attend the Western Network Conference (where I received credits towards my required continuing education in MCC).
- Preached for Rev. Pat Langlois’s Installation Service at MCC/UCC in the Valley.
- Reached out to Rev. Wanda Floyd to help partner FMCC with an emerging church.
- Joined a newly-formed Clergy Community of Practice group (a monthly virtual meeting with five other MCC colleagues to share personal issues as well as worship/programming resources).
- Participated in the memorial service for Rev. Gina Chapman.
- Wrote a letter of reference for the GAP minister for MCC Baton Rouge.
- Attended several webinars offered by the denomination.

Again, with other FMCC “angels,” I did these things in our community:

- Participated in the Interfaith Pride service.
- Marched downtown for immigrant rights.

- Was interviewed by Rev. Brian S Gaeta-Symonds and four Urban Interns (college students who are working with United University Church).
- Visited Very Human's new headquarters and discussed the resources currently offered.
- Was interviewed for a religion class project of a student at LACC.
- Attended and hosted a LAQuICC meeting.
- Staffed the table at the DTLA Proud event.
- Sponsored a table at Models of Pride at Cal-State University.
- Attended the Sheriff's Community Partnership meeting.
- Attended the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus concert.
- Attended a meeting in West Hollywood to meet new President (Estevan Montemeyer) and Executive Director (Madonna Cacciatore) of Christopher Street West Pride.
- Attended two meetings of the Los Angeles County Mental Health Initiative's Faith Leaders.

Now that we are on track with the ongoing building improvements and the start of getting re-oriented with our community partners, goals for next year include enhanced worship and upgraded programming. Several of our groups have flourished, and others have ceased or are on hiatus. Those that are flourishing will continue, while those that have ceased will hopefully be reborn into something fulfilling or simply be released as having succeeded in what they were meant to accomplish. What we are considering for the next set of programs involves more groups meeting with one goal in mind: to build relationships (both with those we know, as well as with those we don't). We also want to continue our new stewardship cards of Time/Talents, recording the number of hours we are ministering outside of our worship service.

In worship, I hope to bring in several ministers for workshops, book-signings, and preaching. I would also like to get more use out of our facility's theater, using it for our own arts in worship, as well as hosting others for arts in worship (dramas, art gallery, etc.). With the receipt of a grant, we are working diligently to make our building more secure. At the same time, we want to offer our facility to even more community groups for one-time events as well as on-going meetings. Soon, we would like to offer our chapel as a Wedding Chapel and a Memorial Service Chapel. This has the potential to offer our community a service as well as bring in some extra income for the church. With the changes already made to our building, we are able to offer more convenient social space in the Hunter Room and our courtyard.

I hope that you are as excited as I am for all that the Spirit is doing in and through this church in and through this community. I am more than honored to be a part of this community of Faith, and I want to thank each of YOU for making this place one that is open to all that God has for us.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Keith Mozingo