

Pastor's Report
Spring Congregational Meeting

May 3, 2026

What an exciting six months this has been! So much has happened, it will be a challenge to share everything. However, there are things I want to point out that have added to our ministry.

One of the biggest additions has been expanding our staff! We hired Bam Noriega as our Assistant Pastor and added Rev. Cindy Solomona-Klebba. Rev. Cindy is not only hosting a worship time on Sundays in her home, but she is also part of the planning for our sermon series and sermon talk-back sessions. Thanks, Rev. Cindy!

While Pastor Bam is part-time, they are doing the work of a full-time minister! Pastor Bam is leading several small-group ministries, including Visioning, Pride, and Breaking Bread. They have been busy working with the Board of Directors in updating office equipment. Because of Pastor Bam's leadership, we have made strides in several areas of ministry. As you will recall, last year we had a Visioning Workshop where many of us met to express our thoughts on the direction of the church. Pastor Bam has been working with a small sub-set of that group to make that vision a reality. Through that group, a team is already offering education classes, a "Third Space" for people to work/gather, and plans for our presence at this year's Pride events. Thanks, Pastor Bam!

Our Creative Worship Team continues to amaze and inspire me. Our services, including Advent, Lenten, and Pentecost sermon series, are all planned by these teams! Our Media Department, led by Sandra Contreras, has already expanded our sound system, and they will soon have updated camera equipment in the sanctuary that will expand our digital footprint. Our Hospitality Teams are making sure we have more meals after worship, and our Music Department, under the leadership of Louis Ramirez, continues to grow!

Our church has enjoyed some wonderful multilingual services, including Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Passion Play (directed by Rev. Eric Buter), Good Friday Procession of the Cross and Stations of the Cross (directed by Pastor Bam), Easter skit (by Pastor Lucia Chappelle), and more. Raul Radilla, one of the speakers for the Spanish-speaking service, has begun his classes toward ordination in MCC! We continue to provide the "White Wall" to keep our 1:30 p.m. service attendees safe from ICE. Thanks to all who continue to volunteer.

Under the leadership of Pastor Bam, we have not only attended several Protest Marches/Rallies, but we have also led a Protest at the Federal Building for the Interfaith CLUE group. And, perhaps the biggest thing we have on the horizon is the "Steps to Liberation"!!! We will have the front steps painted in the original LGBTQ rainbow colors and dedicate them in just a couple of weeks.

I do want to thank these people for their faithfulness in serving as Board Members (some who are running for a second term): Dean Coffey, Ina Serene, Ed Shaughnessey, and Martin Miny. Also, I want to thank Pam Fairbanks and Oriel Briguela Mueller for serving as our Lay Delegates, representing us at our denominational conferences. What a blessing you have all been to this church. I look forward to what God has next for each of you!

As you can see, this church is ON THE MOVE! We are busy with God's business, and it is touching people's lives. It is also reaching beyond our LGBTQ community to the community at large. We are increasing in membership, but that is not just a number. The Spirit is leading people into this place that are ready to serve God, ready to DO ministry, not just think about it.

I am so thankful to be a part of this church - the denomination and the congregation. What the Spirit started through Rev. Troy Perry in 1968 is still making a difference today. And YOU are a part of that success.

Pastor Keith