Founders MCC

metropolitan community church | los angeles
iglesia de la comunidad metropolitana | california usa

ICM Fundadora



2026-2027 Narrative Budget

Introduction

Hello Church,

For more than five decades, Founders Metropolitan Community Church/Iglesia Comunidad Metropolitana Fundadora has been a place where people discover God's unconditional love, experience authentic community, and find opportunities to transform both lives and society. Through worship, outreach, justice work, fellowship, and service, FMCC/ICMF continues its mission to proclaim and embody God's radically inclusive love.

The ministries supported through this budget reflect our commitment to building a community where all people are welcomed and empowered to live fully into their God-given identity. Every contribution made to Founders Metropolitan Community Church supports ministry that changes lives, strengthens faith, and extends hope throughout our congregation, our community, and beyond.

Together, we continue to be a church where faith inspires action, where diversity is celebrated as a blessing, and where God's love is made visible through service, compassion, and justice.

May God continue to bless us in the many years to come.



Outreach Ministries

FMCC/ICMF Church Outside the Walls



Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora has continued to expand the definition of “Church”. Again in 2026, we have had multiple opportunities to continue growing our ministry and share the message of God’s radically inclusive love for all.

Throughout the year, FMCC/ICMF has been out in the streets with volunteers from both the 10 am Worship service and the 1:30 pm Spanish Language Ministry. The growth of our Outreach Ministries has allowed us to touch thousands of people who otherwise may never have had the chance to know that FMCC/ICMF exists. Thousands of people who thought that Queer and Christian could never coexist.

We have continued our popular “Breaking Bread” church outings where we proudly represent FMCC/ICMF as a loving and open church community, wearing our Founders T-shirts! This year, we supported local restaurants and expanded for some months to include a show that supports our church community. This year we attended “Mary Poppins” and “Planet Queer @ AKBAR” to support our church members. We also celebrated the premiere of “Still Here, Still Queer featuring our church and Senior Pastor, at Norris Cinema Theater @USC.

We held our second annual Day of Visioning gathering to continue to discuss what we see as the future for FMCC/ICMF. We spent the day sharing our thoughts, ideas, and wishes about what went well in the past year, where we can improve, and new ways to serve in the years to come. These larger Visioning meetings led to the creation of a Visioning Ministry Team that meets every other week to bring FMCC/ICMF’s visions to fruition.

In May of 2026, we dedicated our “Rainbow Steps, Steps to Liberation. This bold statement means our church steps lead not only into our sanctuary but also out onto the streets. Our own Council District 4 of Los Angeles honored FMCC/ICMF at their Pride celebration for the work we have done in our community and the



visual landmark we are now with our Rainbow Steps.

This is only part of what has occurred in 2026. Throughout this narrative, you can see how all the ministries here at FMCC/ICMF live out “Church Outside the Walls”

FMCC/ICMF Trans*Unity Ministry

Throughout 2026, Trans*Unity continued to make a meaningful impact both within FMCC/ICMF and throughout the wider community. Through worship, service, advocacy, education, outreach, and financial support, our members strengthened transgender visibility and helped extend FMCC/ICMF’s spirit of inclusion well beyond the walls of the church.

Trans*Unity members proudly represented and supported the transgender community at numerous events throughout the year, including multiple Pride events, Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV), and yard sales to raise money for the Christine Daniels Student Awards. These activities gave Trans*Unity members opportunities to be visible, engaged, and active advocates while strengthening connections between FMCC/ICMF and the broader LGBTQ+ community.

One of Trans*Unity’s most significant accomplishments was its continued support of LGBTQ+ students. Through the generosity of the congregation and other donors, seven college students received $1,000 awards each in 2026, totaling $7,000 in direct educational support.

These awards represent more than financial assistance. They demonstrate a tangible commitment to encouraging transgender students as they pursue their education and future goals.



Trans*Unity also expanded its impact beyond the local congregation. For Founders MCC Transgender Day of Visibility program, Rev. Aggie Dennet-Harmon contributed a video presentation, adding another voice and perspective to the observance.

Trans*Unity's outreach also extended internationally. In July, $500 was donated to TAYCOF church in Kampala to support its transgender sanctuary, connecting our local ministry with transgender people of faith in another part of the world.

Through public advocacy, worship leadership, volunteer service, educational support, community partnerships, and international outreach, Trans*Unity demonstrated what it means to put faith and inclusion into action.

We are especially grateful for the generosity of FMCC/ICMF members and friends whose donations, participation, and encouragement made this work possible. Together, we are helping create a community in which transgender people are seen, supported, celebrated, and empowered to serve.

FMCC/ICMF Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry Ministry remains one of the clearest expressions of Christ's call to care for our neighbors. Through faithful volunteer service, this ministry provides nourishment and support to individuals and families facing food insecurity. Every guest who comes through its doors is met with dignity and respect.

As economic challenges continue to affect many households, the Food Pantry Ministry has remained a vital resource to our community throughout 2026. In the last twelve months, approximately 5,894 households (492 on average per month) have been served on Saturday mornings. We can estimate that almost 19,000 people have been touched by this ministry this past year.

FMCC/ICMF Social Justice Ministry

Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora can take pride that our commitment to social justice has been a theme running through all our growing outreach activities, along with the Spirit behind our participation in today's movements to protect civil rights and democracy.



We have continued to resist the assaults of ICE on our community.



FMCC has been a host for two of the "Godmothers of the Disappeared" vigils sponsored by CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice) and a participant in others, marching and praying at the downtown Federal Building and the detention center where immigrants are being held. We also participated in another immigration action downtown, sponsored by LA Voice. Information about handling ICE agents is available on-site, and our "white wall" guarding the front gate during the 1:30 pm service is holding strong. We offer support to anyone who is unable to venture out for needed supplies. Members have taken part in other immigration-related actions.







FMCC/ICMF members have joined in with every #NoKings rally, either with the main group in downtown LA or in their local communities. This pro-democracy movement is recognized as one of the strongest defenses against the efforts to diminish our civil rights, particularly the rights of LGBTQ+ people, and especially the transgender community.



Our showing during Pride season was stupendous, more than outreach to let people know about our inclusive church, but carrying a message of spiritual and social liberation. FMCC/ICMF was part of Pride festivities in several Southern California locales. All of our presentations reflected our history of justice work. Trans*Unity made sure FMCC stayed visible at the various Trans Pride events.





The dedication of the Rainbow Steps of Liberation was one of the year's highlights. It brought together the congregation, the LGBTQ+ community, and local dignitaries and officials for a celebration of our ongoing commitment to social justice.

Our new partnership with SELAH Neighborhood Homeless Coalition has greatly expanded the food insecurity/economic justice ministry we've been doing for so long through our HopeNet partnership. Offering connections for basic needs and advocacy resources on a

weekly drop-in basis, SELAH links unhoused participants to professional services and housing solutions. Church members are on hand to provide a more personal touch to what can often be alienating processes.

As with our sermon series, FMCC/ICMF's social justice concerns ring through our Sermon Talkbacks, and even our new Founders Academy seminars. The discussions make it clear that church members are as deeply engaged with the political implications of our faith as with their personal spirituality.

We've continued our connections with the California Poor People's Campaign, California Interfaith Power and Light (sponsor of the Earth Day activities), Hindus for Human Rights, the Interfaith Alliance, Los Angeles Queer Interfaith Clergy Council (LAQuICC), Faith in Action, and other progressive religious groups. A few church members took part in the initial online gatherings for Faith in Public Life's "We the People" nationwide vision-sharing convocation, but that organization has unfortunately ceased operations.



The ministries of FMCC/ICMF would not exist without many volunteers willing to be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ. Your Social Justice Ministry will step up efforts in the coming year to bring in new workers, particularly people interested in heading up teams to address specific issues (civil rights, environment, etc.).

Congregational Ministries

Hospitality Ministry

One of the greatest gifts Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora offers is a sense of belonging. The Hospitality Ministry helps create that experience by welcoming newcomers, supporting fellowship events, and creating opportunities for connection throughout congregational life.

Whether greeting a first-time visitor, sharing refreshments after worship, or helping coordinate community gatherings, Hospitality volunteers demonstrate the warmth and inclusiveness that have long characterized FMCC.

FMCC/ICMF's Deaf Ministry

Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora is committed to ensuring that every person can participate fully in worship and congregational life. The Deaf Ministry reflects that commitment through accessibility, inclusion, and advocacy.

By providing interpretation and supporting communication access, the ministry helps create opportunities for meaningful participation, spiritual growth, and connection. It reminds us that true inclusion requires both intention and investment.

Financial support for this ministry helps ensure that FMCC/ICMF remains a community where all people can fully engage in worship, fellowship, and service.

Music, Worship, and Digital Ministries

FMCC/ICMF Media Team, Digital Ministry

The Media Ministry extends Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora's reach far beyond the sanctuary. Through livestreamed worship, social media, podcasts, and digital communications, people can stay connected to FMCC/ICFM's ministry and mission, no matter where they live.

By embracing new technologies while remaining grounded in the church's mission, the Media Ministry helps share a message of inclusion, hope, and belonging with a wider community.

Throughout 2026, the Media Specialist spearheaded digital expansion, platform modernization, and community engagement for FMCC/ICMF. By expanding distribution channels to major streaming networks, coordinating hybrid events, and updating structural digital assets, online visibility and engagement metrics grew substantially.



In addition to the Media team's weekly broadcasts and social media management, the team also increased their volunteer staff, standardized the preservation of broadcast files, worked on updating our website, and coordinated the installation of a brand new and upgraded broadcast system.

2026 also brought the launch of two new podcasts, Beyond Sunday @FMCC and Queer Christian Faith, expanding presence across Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music, and YouTube Music. Along with increasing

our online presence, the media team orchestrated event coverage for large events like the Passion Play, Los Angeles Vigil at the Federal Building, and the installation of the Rainbow Steps. The media team also oversaw external media inquiries and pitched localized press releases to major regional networks, Spanish media, for example, La Opinión, The Eastsider, and prominent LGBTQ+ publications such as the Washington Blade.

Digital Ministry Highlights:

- **Facebook (FMCC):** Expanded steadily from **3,340** (Q1) → **3,382** (Q2) → **3,429** followers (Q3).
- **Instagram:** Climbed safely from **504** (Q1) → **564** (Q2) → **613** followers (Q3).
- **YouTube:** Scaled from **1,453** (Q1) → **1,462** (Q2) → **1,481** subscribers (Q3).
- **TikTok:** Witnessed massive momentum, ending Q3 at **1,300** followers.
- **Video Views:** Facebook (FMCC) achieved a spectacular peak in Q2 with **60,193k views**, maintaining a consistent baseline of over 45k views in both Q1 and Q3. Instagram views also scaled from **10,582** in Q1 to **20,900** by Q3.
- **Viral Short-Form Success:** Shifting strategy toward vertical clips yielded strong immediate returns. A single YouTube Short (*Questioning Faith*) reached **1,422** impressions quickly.
- **Strategic Collaborations:** Capitalizing on community partnerships drove exceptional organic reach. For instance, a collaborative post spotlighting City Hall's Pride Month Recognition pulled **9,200 organic views** on Instagram alone.

FMCC/ICMF Creative Team Ministry

The Creative Team is charged with bringing worship alive and deepening the worship experience through meaningful, worshipful, spiritually grounded, multisensory, and transformative ritual actions and activities.

The Creative Team has continued to work to make worship services more meaningful and to connect the worship service itself to the works of service done outside the walls of the church. Both the English and Spanish Creative Worship Teams have continued refining the combined bilingual services so they become a more fluid and meaningful experience for all. The Creative Team has worked with the Media Team to refine the experience for online viewers, and we look forward to using features of the new broadcast system to enhance both the in-house and online

experiences. Blessed with the gifts of Reverend Cindy Solomon-Klebba, Bam Noriega, and Larry Rodriguez, the Team expanded the worship experience through on-site Sunday sermon talkbacks and Tuesday online Sermon Talkbacks. We were also blessed by many guest speakers this past year, both from within FMCC/ICMF and from outside.



Worship Experience Highlights:

- The Combined Bilingual 57th Anniversary Celebration celebrated the Burning of the Mortgage and featured Reverend Elder Héctor Gutierrez as guest preacher. We shared a special video message from the Moderator, Reverend Cecilia Eaggleston.
- Reverend Danilo Cortez was the guest preacher as we celebrated Filipino American Heritage Month on October 12.
- A 3-week Stewardship Series concluded with Pledge Sunday.
- We commemorated the loss of so many in the trans community on Sunday, November 23, with our Transgender Day of Remembrance service. The service featured the Trans Chorus of Los Angeles, and flowers tagged with the names of our trans siblings lost to violence.
- The Advent Season Series “Advent: What Did You Expect?” pursued the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love that the season brings into the world.
- The highlight of the Christmas Eve service was an original play by Lucia Chappelle, “Back Of The Barn,” a Christmas play from the perspective of the animals in the barn that night.
- For those seeking, baptisms were available on the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, January 11.

- Job Garcia, a USA citizen who was detained overnight by ICE, was the guest preacher celebrating MLK Jr. weekend. This was about the same time ICE agents shot an unarmed woman in Minneapolis, and when the pastor of All God's Children MCC in Minneapolis was interviewed by the news.
- On Ash Wednesday, ashes were available for imposition on the street, and the first online multilingual Ash Wednesday Guided Meditation was provided via Zoom.
- "Changing The World" was the theme of the series for Lent. The series challenged us to leave our comfort zone and become a people who work for change in our world.
- Palm Sunday was a combined bilingual service which featured "La Pasión de Cristo." It was a moving experience for observers and participants alike.
- Easter Sunday was a celebratory service featuring a skit by Lucia Chappelle, and Bam Noriega preaching.
- A new series, "Road Trip To Pentecost," began after Easter and ran to Pentecost. The focus of the series was on the infamous clobber passages – scripture passages that have been used against our Queer Community. The purpose was to prepare people to go out into the world for Pride. May included a Mother's Day flower tribute.
- The "Steps To Pentecost" series culminated in the "Steps To Liberation" event, dedicating the rainbow steps on May 17. The service before the dedication was fantastic as was the dedication. Thanks to the many people who helped put together the dedication of the rainbow steps.
- Pentecost Sunday launched the beginning of Pride in June. It was followed by the next two Saturdays with combined bilingual worship services.
- June also included a Father's Day tribute, celebration of Trans Pride, and Juneteenth.
- July began a new series, "Radical Hospitality: Come Taste And See." The series, which ran through August, explored the fuller meaning of Biblical hospitality. The time also included a celebration of our founder's, Reverend Elder Troy Perry, birthday, presentation of the Christine Daniels Scholarships, and celebration honoring recent graduates.
- September launched the series, "One Day At A Time," which shared the wisdom in the 12-step program for all of us in our lives today.

- On October 4, a combined bilingual service celebrated the 58th Anniversary of the founding of this church. We were blessed with words from our founder, Reverend Elder Troy Perry. Thanks to everyone who made the festive day a success.



As our congregation continues to grow in diversity, the Creative Team remains committed to creating worship that welcomes many voices, perspectives, and experiences. We also welcome more volunteers for worship participation, such as readers, celebrants, prayer partners, broadcast crew, ushers, sound, and altar setup.









FMCC/ICMF Music Ministry

A letter from Louis Ramirez. FMCC/ICMF Music Minister

Four years now at FMCC/ICMF! And we're close to another holiday season! Yikes! It seems like yesterday we were celebrating Advent and Christmas! Time seems to fly!

As most of you know, 2026 has brought a major personal challenge! It was a challenge I never imagined myself facing. But I can say, as I look at this past year, that I am thankful for this challenge, as it has caused me to grow and stretch in my faith.



Being your Music Director has been a huge blessing and strength as I faced this challenge. Having to be "present" every Sunday, caused me to constantly listen to God's voice so that this ministry could be fresh: I could not allow myself to wallow and tune out. So, for that I am grateful!



I am grateful for the privilege of working with two primary groups of singers. Each has been a blessing to me, and so gracious to me, with all of them constantly lifting me up and encouraging me. And I love how they love and support each other. We are indeed a family!

I thank them all—they are all special, but I would be remiss if I did not mention my absolute thankfulness for one special person, and that is Peter Kirkpatrick. I have had to heavily lean on him this year. Even if he had prior commitments, he changed them to help me on those Sundays I needed to step aside for health issues. We are blessed to have such a talented and skillful musician in our midst! (And thank you to the incredible Keith Tyler who has also stepped in from time to time!)





Once again I am also thankful for our capable sound technicians and broadcast/camera operators—we can't minister without them!

Stewardship of our Building and Resources

FMCC/ICMF Property & Facilities Ministry

The Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora campus serves as a home for worship, ministry, education, recovery groups, community organizations, outreach programs, and countless opportunities for connection.

The Property and Facilities Ministry faithfully stewards this shared space through maintenance, repairs, safety improvements, and ongoing care of church property. Though much of this work happens behind the scenes, it supports every ministry and activity on campus.

The facilities are regularly used not only by the congregation but also by community partners whose work aligns with FMCC/ICMF's mission of service and support.

Investments in this ministry help preserve and strengthen the physical resources entrusted to us so that future generations may continue to gather, worship, learn, and serve together.

Highlights from 2026:

Building Maintenance



- A new concrete entry pad from the sidewalk to the courtyard entry walkway was poured to address a sidewalk defect.
- The church received a Notice of Compliance from the LAFD Fire Marshall in 2024 regarding the Fire Hose in the Sanctuary Vestibule that was not connected to a water supply and failed a standpipe test in 2023. The fire hose was replaced and replumbed in March 2026.
- The front row of seats in the sanctuary were moved to the Black Box Theater.
- Electrical repairs were made as needed to electrical outlets and an antique light fixture on the front of the building. We installed a new thermostat in the Administrative Office.
- A Church Clean Up Day was held in September. Thank you to all who participated.

Equipment Maintenance

- Service was completed on the ice maker, the kitchen hood fan, and the fire suppression system in the kitchen and on the roof. Fire extinguishers were maintained. Carpets and tile were steam cleaned in the sanctuary, vestibule, and rear offices.
- Tankless water heater on roof and basement toilets were serviced.

Building Security

- Security Coordinator Don Mueller coordinated programming of entry keypads and fobs for building access.
- Alarm system training was held, and the alarm system came online.
- A Wi-Fi access point was added to enhance coverage for the Education Center.
- An interior door keypad was replaced, and the administrative office and restroom were rekeyed.

Improvements due to the “Steps of Liberation” initiative

- Professional hot power washing and sealing of concrete ledges
- Installation of skateboard deterrents on the rails and ledges
- Repairing the vandalized front door
- Painting our front doors and handrails indigo
- Repainting the red and the white front curbs
- Repainting sign boxes in front of the building
- Touch-up painting of bare wood on the white wall at the rear of the property.
- Repair and repainting stucco around the steps



Projects in Process

- Board of Directors is evaluating bids to update gutters, downspouts, and clean out discharge pipes.
- Board of Directors is gathering bids to add air conditioning to the basement and replace the furnace on the west side of the property

Facilities

- Currently we have 25 recovery groups using church facilities each week.
- A variety of community gatherings and theater fundraising events are being held on campus.

Pastoral Ministry

Letter From Our Pastor:

Greetings, Saints!



We are just on the heels of our 58th Anniversary, and what a celebration we had! I'm so thankful for the 58 years of ministry this congregation has provided. We have seen some good times, bad times, and hard times, but God has brought us through them all. I look forward to many more years of ministry through Founders MCC/ICM Fundadora!

Over the last few months, we have grown our existing ministries, trained new volunteers, initiated new ministries, gained partnerships with community groups, and added new staff. That's a lot in six months!

Our Card-writing ministry, Prayer Circle, Creative Worship Ministries, Music Ministry, Building and Grounds Ministry, Justice Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Worship Experience Ministry, Justice

Ministry, Monthly Breaking Bread Ministry, and Food Bank Ministry are still faithfully growing with more volunteers. Our Media Team has new volunteers and new equipment. We have expanded our worship opportunities with Sermon Talk Back sessions and Founders Queer University classes.

Our Spanish-speaking Ministry continues to grow. We added Raul Radilla to the staff as Pastoral Leader of Spanish-speaking Ministries. We also elected Cesar Maldonado to the Board of Directors and Edgar Cruz as a Lay Delegate, giving our Spanish-speaking congregation representation.

As you know, we also elected Niki Mohr as a Lay Delegate and appointed Leo De Serio to the Board of Directors.

Since our Spring Congregational Meeting, we have celebrated several holidays with special observances: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Pentecost, Graduates, Rev. Troy Perry's Birthday, and our 58th Anniversary. We awarded $7000 in scholarships from our Christine Daniels Scholarship Fund. We participated in multiple Pride Parades and Resource Fairs. We dedicated our Rainbow Steps to Liberation with special speakers, including our church's founder, Rev. Troy Perry, and speakers from the board of Christopher Street West (LA Pride) and our district council member, Nithya Raman. Our church then received a commendation from the City of Los Angeles for our community work.

We have participated as a congregation in the No Kings events, and we led the "Godmothers of the Disappeared" weekly vigils twice.

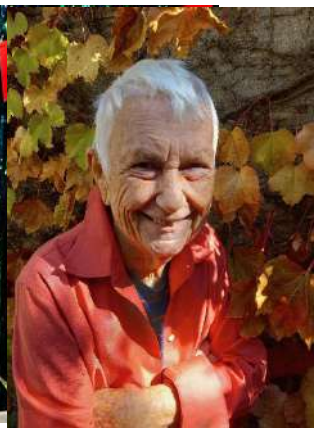


I am thankful for the Board of Directors, as they have continued to invite our community to use our space throughout the week. We have added some "Anonymous" groups, and our latest venture has been the addition of SELAH. On Wednesdays, our building is transformed into a huge resource center for those who are unhoused, hungry, in need of clothing, and more. Also, our Third Space Ministry, currently operated by volunteers, is about to expand from two days per week to six days per week!

Now, all of this doesn't happen by itself, nor with just one leader! We hired Bam Noriega as our Part-time Assistant Pastor. Louis Ramirez

is not only the Music Director for both services, but is also our Office Administrator. Our media presence has grown tremendously since adding Sandra Contreras as Media Specialist. We also added Rev. Eric Buter to our list of Volunteer Staff Pastors. These, along with Raul Radilla (as I already mentioned), keep everything going. Thanks to Maria Noriega and Reyna Montoya for their weekly administrative assistance. While they are not staff members, I have to mention the Visioning Team, which takes our dreams from our annual churchwide Visioning Meeting and turns them into realities throughout the rest of the year. I'm so thankful to have such a distinguished and dedicated group of people to make ministry happen!





Since our last meeting, we have said goodbye to two of our members: Betty Weaver and Eileen Cusimano. Our hearts are sad that they are no longer with us in this realm, but we rejoice that they were a part of our lives while they lived. Each blessed us so much.

Church, I'm thankful for all that's been accomplished in the last six months, and I'm looking forward to what the next six months will bring. Each time I sit down to write these reports, I struggle to recognize all the many ways this church IS the hands, feet, and heart of Christ. Let's continue to do all we can to keep this legacy alive.

God bless you as we continue this journey together.

Pastor Keith

A SHARED MINISTRY



The 2027 budget represents more than dollars and cents. It reflects the congregation's collective commitment to embodying God's love in meaningful and transformative ways.

Each ministry supported through this budget offers opportunities for worship, fellowship, advocacy, outreach, and service. Together, they tell the story of a church that

continues to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, work for justice, celebrate diversity, and proclaim God's inclusive love.

Through faithful stewardship and generous giving, Founders Metropolitan Community Church/Iglesia Comunidad Metropolitana Fundadora continues its mission of transforming lives and building beloved community.

The 2027 Narrative Budget is our shared investment in faith, justice, compassion, and hope.

Total Income:	**$343,513.50**
Total Expense:	**$444,658.00**

