

BLESSED & Blessing Others

*I will bless you, and make your name great,
so that you will be a blessing.*

Genesis 12:2



An Invitation from

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

A METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

THIS IS OUR STORY

All God's Children MCC
is called by Christ to be:

*A radically inclusive
community of faith*

...

*Healed by God's
unrelenting grace*

...

*Sent in love to share our
gifts with the world*

Before there was Gay Pride, OutFront Minnesota, Minnesota AIDS Project, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, and the welcoming/affirming church movement there was All God's Children MCC. In 1974 a small group of college students and adults got together to form the beginnings of this church for gay people. This was a pivotal moment in history because this was the first time that a church would be organized in Minnesota to give voice to the truths of GLBTQ lives.

Our history shows us the importance of our unique voice; one that adds to the cultural and spiritual conversation of our time. We live the importance of being a prophetic church that speaks truth and takes action. Today that small worshipping group has grown into the largest GLBTQ congregation in the upper Midwest and one of the top 15 largest congregations of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC).

All God's Children is a blessed and reconciled congregation. We have wonderful and dedicated congregants, gifted leaders and passion for ministry. We believe we exist not simply to bask in the blessings we have received from God, rather we are blessed so that we might be a blessing to our world.



All God's Children continues to touch peoples lives:

*The congregation grows to 20
people and meets in a duplex
at 3829 Harriet. The church
publishes the Twin Cities' first
GLBT newspaper.*

1974

1975

*The first
marriages
are held.*



*First services
held in rented
store on 22nd
and Lyndale.*

1976

1981

*Religious services begin being
held in homes on Sunday
afternoons. Request to become
affiliated with UFMCC.*

*The congregation moves
to the Friends Meeting
House and obtains "Mission
Status" as a church.*

*Officially chartered on
July 25 as Metropolitan
Community Church of
the Twin Cities.*

“WOULD JESUS DISCRIMINATE?”

We are the best positioned group in Minnesota to speak with authenticity and authority to the spiritual violence perpetrated upon GLBTQ people by religious extremists.

One of the ways we speak truth about this issue is that All God’s Children is the local organizational leader for the national MCC campaign called “Would Jesus Discriminate?” This public information campaign is an important dialogue to have in the larger community about the ways the Bible and the beliefs of some Christians have been used as weapons against GLBTQ people and our straight allies. Through billboards, yard signs, community forums, local news media and other methods, we will raise the conversation into the everyday lives of Minnesotans in a way not previously accomplished. The larger GLBTQ community has often been in a defensive posture when this conversation has been set up as a debate. Now we will set a new paradigm from which to have a discussion that we hope will build bridges of communication and allow a civility to return to the conversation. We are called to turn animosity into blessing.

OUR UNIQUE CALLING

We live this call by providing a safe and healing space, engaging our community in dynamic and God-centered worship, offering opportunities for spiritual growth, personal development and activism and applying sound biblical wisdom to contemporary life



St. Paul MCC and Minneapolis MCC merge together under the new name of All God’s Children Metropolitan Community Church.

1982

1983

Rev. Arlene Ackerman called to Pastor and the church continued to outgrow its location.

1985

AGCMCC marches to a beautiful building at 3100 Park Avenue. The church experiences record attendance in the 400’s.

1986

1991

As the congregation grew, services move to Park and Lake Street.



Rev. Arlene Ackerman resigns, later elected Elder, and Rev. Chuck Larsen is called as pastor in the fall.

OUR UNIQUE CALLING

Our Church Goals

To be sanctuary for any who come seeking safety and healing.

...

To provide dynamic worship experiences drawing from diverse theological, liturgical and cultural spectrums.

...

To offer opportunities for ministry and spiritual growth that honor a diverse congregation, encouraging individual gifts to be expressed.

...

To reach out to our community through the spiritual gifts and talent of our people, and the partnerships we develop.

...

To bless our world as good stewards of all the resources with which God has blessed us.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND CIVIL RIGHTS

We were the first church to offer the sacrament of marriage to same-sex couples and remain a leading voice in speaking to the spiritual issues of marriage equality in the larger cultural discussion. Our pastor and several members of our congregation have taken the additional step of legal marriage available in Canada. We continue to offer insight and guidance for those considering what marriage means in a 21st century context, while challenging models of marriage that dehumanize women, place children in exploitive homes and perpetuate an unequal legal status for GLBTQ people. We officiate as couples advance their families from commitment to covenant. Blessing love and families, in all their wonderful manifestations, is an important part of what we do.



Rev. T. Paul Graetz called as Senior Pastor.

1994

AGCMCC celebrates 20 years of ministry.

1997

New boiler is installed and many improvements are made to the interior of the sanctuary.



The church hosts "Minnesota Says NO to Hate Rally" with more than 1,000 gathering for service.

1998

Rev. Fred Phelps congregation pickets AGCMCC.



BEING A SANCTUARY THROUGH GRACE

For All God's Children, the issue of God's grace and acceptance is never in question so we can concentrate on developing deeper understandings of what it means to be GLBTQ people, straight allies and families with children who are following the ways of Jesus. We are one of the few "safe places" where GLBTQ persons struggling to come out can find unconditional support on their spiritual journey. It is a common experience for a first-time worshipper to be overcome with tears. Those tears represent many different things – being in the presence of holiness in all of one's authenticity, finally letting go of the destructive patterns of one's life that have brought addiction, chaos and brokenness, or even finding the ability to sing the hymns or pray the prayers of one's childhood for the first time as an openly GLBTQ person. Increasingly our church is a haven for a diversity of ethnicities, races and religious traditions. Even persons with non-Christian faith traditions (Muslim, Native spirituality, Judaism) are finding our church a welcoming community to explore spirituality. One of our themes "Come Just As You Are" resonates with a wide range of people no matter where they are on their faith journey. Nurturing each other in community also takes the form of support groups for issues such as depression, addiction recovery, coming out, and development of healthy relationships. For All God's Children, worshipping together and serving our world as a community is a blessing.

OUR UNIQUE CALLING

The Core Values that guide us are:

Prayerful Inspiration

...

Living in Covenant

...

Challenging oppressive structures and assumptions

...

Integrity of Communication and Actions

...

Celebration of Diversity



The issue of same-sex marriage made national news. AGC was at the forefront in the struggle in the Twin Cities. A "Renewal of Vows" was held during worship in February that was extensively covered by all four major television stations. Sixty-five couples renewed their vows as a statement of the commitment of GLBT people to our relationships.



Rev. Tucker and his partner Bill travel to Canada for a legal marriage ceremony and the official name change to Rev. Eknes-Tucker came shortly after.

1999

The congregation conducts collection drives and Do Unto Others monies for record-high donations.

2002

The congregation voted to call Rev. Tucker as permanent Senior Pastor. The church finished construction on the parking lot and a strategic planning process.

2004

BLESSED & BLESSING OTHERS

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8



The building that houses All God's Children MCC is a symbol in the GLBTQ community and beyond of God's affirming and unconditional love being available for each and every one of us; of a worship space that heals and sends us in service. Your gifts will assist us in keeping our doors open to all who need us, expanding the mission opportunities as well as making some much needed upgrades to our facility.

It is important to us as a church that our building is always welcoming, safe and an asset to the GLBTQ community and our local neighborhood. Your gift means that many generations to come will continue to find a place to rediscover their relationship with God, to build a new identity as authentically whole persons, and to live as a community in which their lives can be blessed by God's grace.

All God's Children MCC at 3100 Park Avenue is more than a location and a building, it houses the hopes, history, dreams, and possibilities of GLBTQ people from the past through the tomorrows. We are blessed by God to be a blessing to our world.

In response to a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, AGCMCC launches the "MARRY ME" campaign at the Pride festival, complete with shirts, stickers, banners, and media.

2005



It is determined that the furnace will need to be replaced, a planning team is established to compile all information and manage the project from start to finish.

2006

The Board approves a study of our current furnace for an assessment of the life-expectancy of the unit.

Rev. Robyn Murphy joined the staff in November as the Pastor of Christian Education.

All God's Children's Christian education is enhanced with new programming developed by Rev. Murphy.

BLESSED & BLESSING OTHERS VISION

Our goal in the Blessed & Blessing Others capital appeal is to realize \$500,000 in resources and beyond. Realizing these resources will enable us to complete a necessary furnace replacement project, transform our current mortgage into funding services and ministries, and provide seed monies to the "Would Jesus Discriminate" campaign.

Would you partner with us in this journey? Our congregation is responding to this sacrificial call by mobilizing the resources of our lives so that the important work of All God's Children continues for many generations to come. We need your help to make our dreams become reality. Every day in this place is a new beginning for another person – finding themselves, finding sobriety, finding God, finding a way to keep moving forward and discovering blessing.

Priority One: Supporting Our Church Home <i>Furnace Replacement Project</i>	\$300,000
Priority Two: Focusing On God's Mission <i>Turning present mortgage into ministry and services</i>	\$150,000
<i>"Would Jesus Discriminate" campaign</i>	\$20,000
Priority Three: Foundational funds for expanded ministry and organizational effectiveness	\$30,000

We believe this vision is possible as we trust in God's promises of abundance and provision.

Here are some creative ideas that may assist you in your giving:

- *Priority budgeting*
- *Gifts from an IRA fund*
- *Property, jewelry, or cars*
- *Appreciated assets*
- *Gifts from extra work*
- *Stocks and bonds*
- *Re-channeling a present expenditure*
- *Gifts of unexpected cash*
- *Gifts of life insurance*
- *Real estate*
- *Gifts from an annuity or charitable trust*

Marriage equality initiatives continue with "My Love Is True" campaign.

AGCMCC hires Kairos, a capital campaign company to help imagine our future.

2007



From here we are in God's hands to be led in grace from being Blessed to Blessing Others.

2007 & beyond



AGC organizes local effort in national MCC "Would Jesus Discriminate" campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us in exploring what God is doing at All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church



May 6, 10 a.m.

Celebrate our mission and ministries while we begin to imagine our future. Our guest preacher will be Rev. Jeff Kjellberg, our consultant from *Kairos*.

May 11, 7 p.m.

A fun evening of celebration, entertainment and community for All God's Children. Held at the Park House.

May 13, 10 a.m.

A special invitation for you to determine how you fit into the vision of ***Blessed & Blessing Others***. Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker will be preaching a sermon entitled, "Breaking Out of the Fear".

May 20, 10 a.m.

A celebration and receiving of our commitments to the future of All God's Children. Rev. Paul Eknes-Tucker will be preaching a sermon entitled, "No Holds Barred."



ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

A METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

3100 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55407