

Summer 2012	Aug. 6– 8, 9AM – 1 PM.	1.0 Credits
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Lead Instructor: Rev. Terri Echelbarger	revterri@peninsulamcc.org	650-515-0900
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Course Description

This course will consider the history, structure, and governance of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), as well as the values, theologies, and cultures that have shaped and continue to shape MCC. In addition to the reading material, lectures, and class discussions, guest lecturers will offer further perspectives. Evaluation includes papers, daily reading quizzes, and a final project. A course in MCC History and Polity is required for MCC ordination.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of this course students will:

1. Be able to state the founding history of Metropolitan Community Churches, including biographical information for Rev. Elder Troy Perry and other pioneers of MCC.
2. Be able to draw parallels between Social Justice Movements (including just treatment of those with HIV/AIDS) and the development of MCC. State how MCC has influenced justice for LGBT people.
3. Be able to articulate the past and current visions of MCC and its role in the world.
4. Be able to knowledgeably discuss the MCC By-Laws and how they are updated.
5. Be able to knowledgeably discuss the Standards of Ethics and Conduct for MCC Clergy.
6. Be able to knowledgeably discuss the process of training and ordaining MCC Clergy.

Course Requirements

There is a great deal of diversity in MCC theologically, politically, and culturally. Since our knowing is contextual, it is expected that we will speak only for ourselves and respect one another.

1. Students are expected to complete all reading and writing assignments by the dates they are due.
2. Students are expected to participate in class exercises and discussions (**15%**)
3. Students are invited to work together in and out of class (unless otherwise instructed).
4. The instructor is open to creative completion of assigned tasks if approved in advance.
5. The Calendar of Assignments includes required papers and readings, all of which count toward your grade.

Grading and Plagiarism Policy

Please become very familiar with the PSR policy located at <http://www.psr.edu/grades>. It will be enforced.

Course Texts

Perry, Troy D. with Thomas L.P. Swicegood. *Don't Be Afraid Anymore: The Story of Reverend Troy Perry and the Metropolitan Community Churches*. New York: St. Martins Press, 1990. (In Reader)

Enroth, Ronald. *The Gay Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1974 (In Reader)

Flunder, Bishop Yvette. *Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press, 2005

Schedule and Assignments

Pre-Course

Obtain Reader and read:

- Perry, Troy D, *Don't Be Afraid Anymore* (All)
- Enroth, Ronald, *The Gay Church* (All)
- *MCC Historical Timeline* by Lynn Jordan, Founding Member MCCSF
- *A Particular Disposition Pre-1930*

Prepare: **5 page paper (15%)**

The early pioneers of MCC are aging, and it is important to preserve their memory and history. Compile a list of key leaders (a minimum of 15) in the history and development of MCC and then specifically highlight one of these people and their history with and/or influence on the MCC Movement. One page of this paper may be a photograph(s).

Aug. 6, 2012 — Orientation to Course and the Founding of MCC (1940-1978) (Outcomes 1 and 3)

Class Activity:

- Review syllabus, course texts, and course assignments.
- Meet one another and gain understanding of our various exposures to MCC or other Ministries.

Visiting Lecturers: Jack Hubbs and Lynn Jordan share stories of early MCC.

View in class DVD: *Call Me Troy*

Quiz and Reading Review (10%): All assigned pre-course texts.

5 page Paper Due (15%): see pre-course assignments

Aug. 7, 2012 — The Freedom Train: Social Justice and MCC (Outcomes 1 and 2)

Visiting Lecturer: Rev. Elder Freda Smith shares her stories of Social Justice and MCC

Read: Flunder, Bishop Yvette. *Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion* (All)

View in class DVD: *We Who Are One Body: A Spiritual Walk with AIDS*

Class Discussion:

- In what ways does the MCC experience with HIV/AIDS still impact us?
- What specific sensitivities might MCC pastors bring to ministry due to this experience?
- The role of 'politics' and 'social justice' in the MCC movement.

Quiz and Reading Review (10%)

1-2 page Paper Due (5%): Brief (1-2 page) position paper on the appropriate intersections of politics and faith. Papers will be discussed in class.

Aug. 8, 2012 — MCC By-Laws, Clergy preparation, Ordination and Conduct in MCC (Outcomes 4–6)

Read:

- *Current MCC By-Laws* <http://mccchurch.org/how-we-work/governance/>
- *MCC: Our Vision, Our Purpose, Our Direction and MCC Core Values* <http://mccchurch.org/overview/>
- Documents related to your clergy training and process, including 'In Care Packet' <http://ofld.mccchurch.org/programs-what-we-do/clergy-development/forms-manuals/>
- *Code of Clergy Conduct / Ethics of Professional Spiritual Leadership in MCC* (Use above link and download 'application for ordination' to see Code of Conduct.)
- *Judiciary Process* <http://mccchurch.org/how-we-work/governance/>

Quiz and Reading Review (10%)

2 page Paper Due (5%): In two pages, please be kindly argumentative: What would you change about the MCC By-Laws, Code of Conduct, or clergy preparation process if you were in charge. Papers may be discussed in class, time allowing.

Aug. 20, 2012 — Final Papers Due (30%)

Develop and submit a time line of essential historical events and happenings (a minimum of 30) that you believe are landmarks in the history and development of MCC.

and

Option 1: Write a 5–7 page paper that articulates a vision for MCC in the future. Your paper can cover a variety of topics or explore one topic in depth, but in all cases should reflect thought on how to move from the current state into the vision you describe. The papers should demonstrate critical reflection, study, reading and research beyond the required texts.

Option 2: Submit a proposed By-Law Amendment, include the history of the development of the current By-Law, the text of the current By-Law, your amended By-Law (with highlighted changes), and arguments both for and against the amendment from various points of view.