



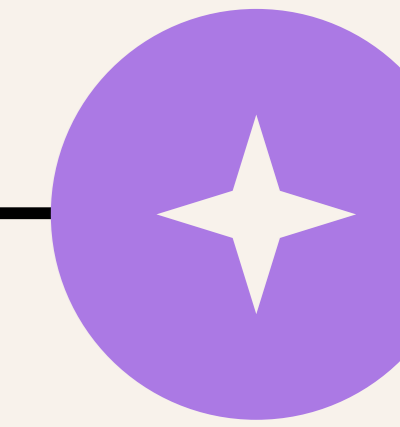
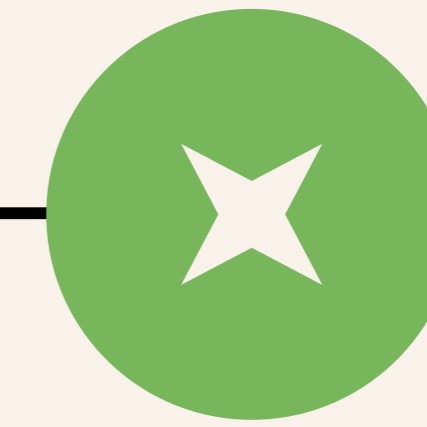
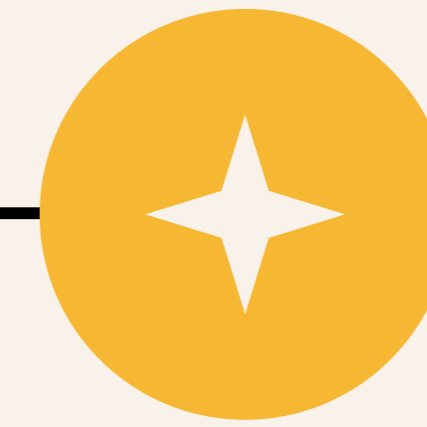
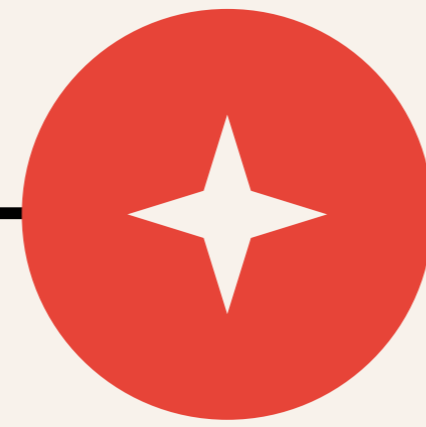
# Senior Pastor Search

Resurrection Metropolitan  
Community Church

*Launched August 7, 2023*







## **RMCC is seeking applicants for the position of Senior Pastor**

Reverend Elder Troy Treash, our Senior Pastor for the past decade, is retiring, effective August 31, 2023. Our church, especially our Pastoral Search Committee, has been praying fervently that God's will for our Resurrection be realized.







## **This presentation is the outgrowth of our praying and listening**

Here, we attempt to illustrate the qualities we believe God is directing us to seek as well as what God has provided us to offer our next pastor.





# Thank you for your interest

## *A note from the Pastoral Search Committee*

You will find multiple opportunities for growth here at Resurrection MCC. We have a wonderfully diverse congregation, a prime location, and a fine facility. Those who regularly visit Resurrection MCC describe our church as accepting, friendly, joyful, and welcoming. They love our preaching, our music, and our non-worship offerings. And yet, we know we have even more to offer. We are poised for growth as we seek a new leader to carry us forward.





\* \* \* \* \*

# What is Resurrection MCC?

\* \* \* \* \*







# We are a spiritual home

We strive to be a place where everyone matters, where they are seen and heard, and can find a spiritual home whose foundation is built of fellowship and family with others.

## **ATTRACT**

We believe we are called to **ATTRACT** people into God's family by celebrating God's presence in our worship.

## **INCLUDE**

We **INCLUDE** long-time members and newfound friends through connections we form during intentional fellowship opportunities.

## **MATURE**

We **MATURE** together as a people of God by educating ourselves through discipleship in our life development offerings.

## **MOBILIZE**

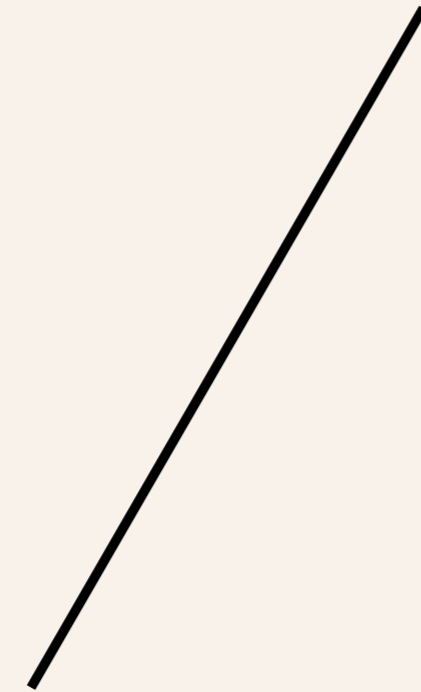
We **MOBILIZE** RMCC to be God's face in the community through outreach that communicates God's love and demonstrates it through willing and joyful service.



**VISION**

**Based on our Core Values**

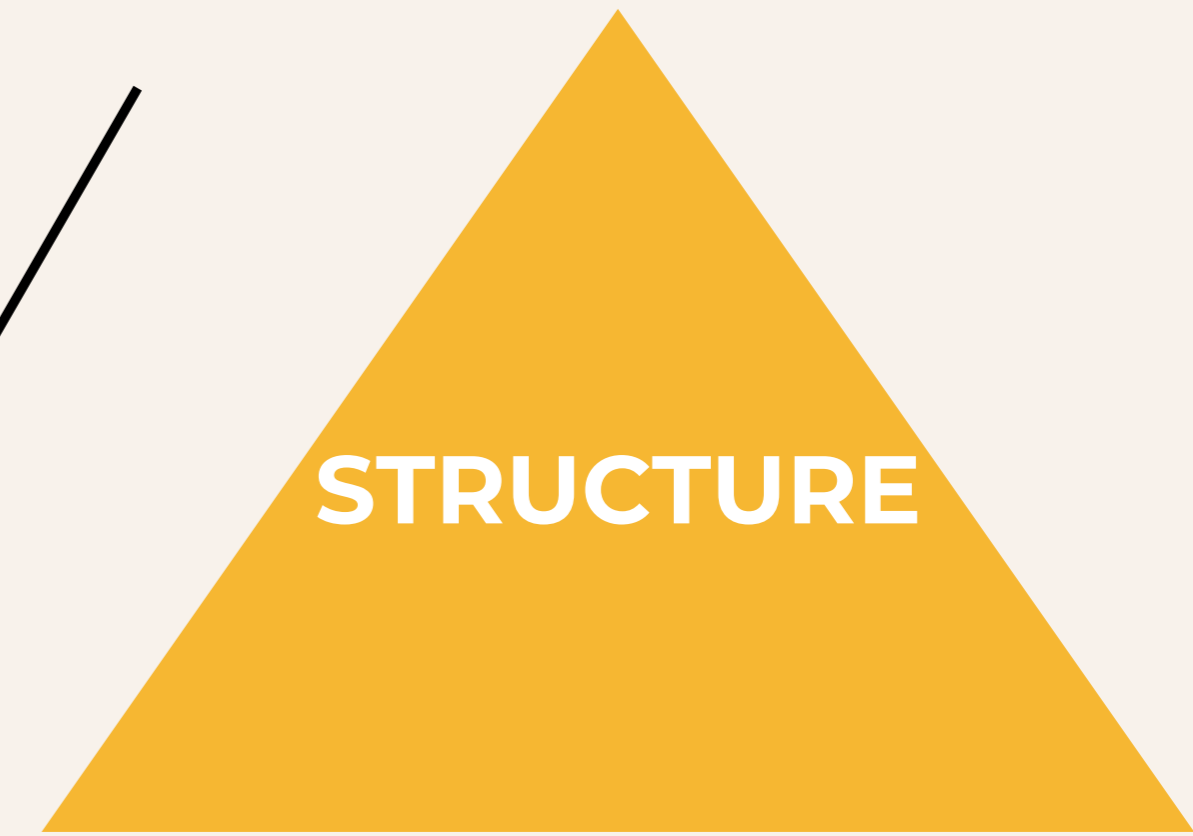
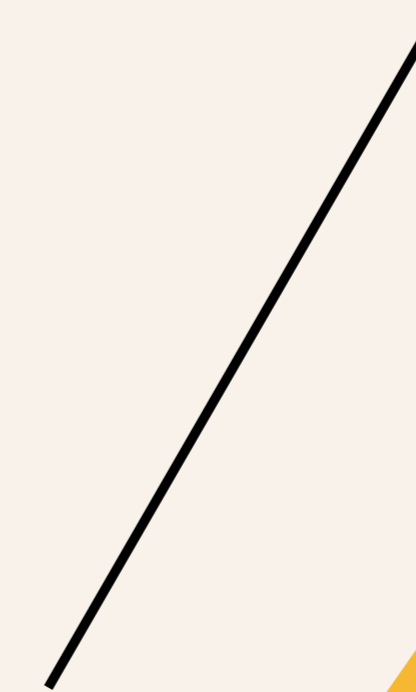
- Inclusion
- Community
- Spiritual Transformation
- Social Action



**STRATEGY**

**Create a life that matters**

- Attract
- Include
- Mature
- Mobilize



**STRUCTURE**

**Create a church that matters**

- Worship
- Connection
- Life Development
- Outreach

## **Creative Arts**

Design & Décor  
Theatre  
Special Programs

## **Music**

Gospel Ensemble  
Chimes  
Liturgical Dance  
Resurrection Choir  
Sanctuary Choir  
Soloists

## **Altar**

Sacristy  
Communion Servers  
Deaf Ministry  
Prayer Ministry  
Scripture Readers

# **WORSHIP**

We celebrate diverse expressions of worship through various art forms, creating safe spaces for our congregation to connect with God. Art becomes a powerful tool to share our stories, fostering understanding, love, and acceptance within and beyond our congregation.





## Care & Counseling

Baptisms  
Care Callers  
Care Teams  
Funerals and Memorials  
Holy Unions and Weddings  
Pastoral Care  
Wellness Center  
Support Groups

## First Impressions

Concierge  
Inspirations  
Receptionist  
Ushers  
Welcome Team

## Small Groups

Connection Groups  
Friday Night OUT  
OWLS Senior Ministry

## Volunteer Development

New Members Class  
Season of Service  
Spiritual Gifts Class



# CONNECTIONS

We believe in the power of connection within our diverse congregation. Through a range of programs, we create a nurturing environment where individuals of all backgrounds can find understanding and support.





# LIFE DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to nurturing personal growth and life development for all members of our congregation. We provide opportunities for spiritual and personal exploration at every stage of life.

## Adults

Future Clergy  
Spiritual Growth &  
Education Facilitators  
Retreats  
Weekly Offerings  
Workshops

## Children & Youth

Nursery (0-3)  
Sprouts (4-6)  
Faith Beginnings (7-9)  
Faith Explorers (10-12)  
Youth Life (13-18)  
Special Events





## **Benevolence**

Financial Assistance  
HIV/AIDS Support  
Pride Charities

## **Communications**

Advertising  
Online Worship  
Email Campaigns  
Facebook  
Marketing  
*Weekly Mobilizer*  
Signage  
Website

## **Networking**

Community Partners  
Equality Ministry  
Targeted Outreach

## **Missions**

Church Partnerships  
UFMCC



# **OUTREACH**

Outreach is at the heart of our mission.

Our commitment to inclusivity and understanding drives us to connect with others and build bridges of love and acceptance. At RMCC, outreach is a transformative force, touching lives and embracing humanity with open arms.



## Facilities

Grounds  
Maintenance  
Rentals  
Scheduling  
Security

## Finance

Accounting  
Banking  
Budget  
Investing  
Reporting  
Risk Management

## Information Technology

Computers  
Database  
Network  
Phones

## Office Management

Administration  
Human Resources  
Insurance



# OPERATIONS

Our Operations ministry teams play a vital role in upholding the foundation that allows us to serve and support our community effectively. Their dedication keeps our mission thriving. We cherish and appreciate our Operations teams for being the backbone that enables us to continue our mission of compassion, inclusion, and support.



# Our History and Our Homes

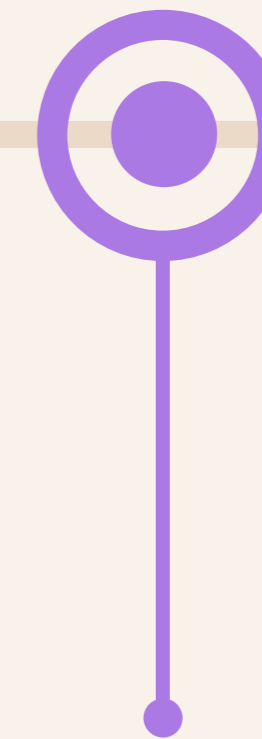


## **MCC comes to Houston**

HOUSTON, Tex.—A new Metropolitan Community Church mission held its first service at the downtown YMCA here on Sunday, Mar. 7, with 12 persons in attendance. The new mission is an outreach of MCC, San Diego, Calif. Acting pastor is the Rev. Tom Markham. The mission can be contacted at (713) 675-5241.

**Advocate, 4/28/71**

**1971**

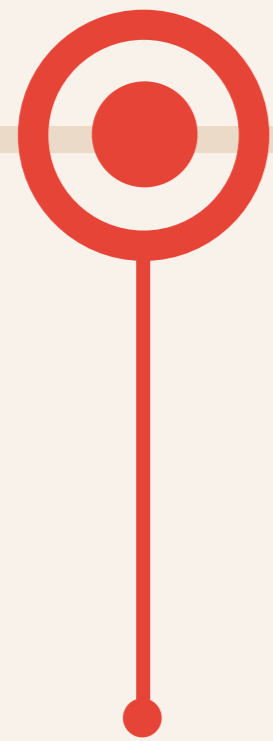


The seeds for MCC ministry in Houston were planted in the winter of 1971-1972. These seeds took root in December 1972.

**Humble Beginnings**



**1974**



**2020 Waugh**




On the second Sunday of February in 1974, the MCC group moved to a former bicycle repair shop on Waugh Drive, with fourteen people in attendance.







**Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection**



*"To see Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly, Follow Thee more nearly – Day by Day, at Christmas and throughout the New Year!" Our wish to You.*

**Special Christmas Services:**  
Dec. 24 at 11pm  
Dec. 25 at 10:30am

**Sunday Services:** 1pm and 7:30pm

**1214 Joe Annie**  
P.O. Box 13731  
Houston, Texas 77019

**Rev. R.M. Falls,**  
Pastor

Phone (713) 526-8233

Page 10 **1975** This Week: Dec. 20 - 26

**1975**

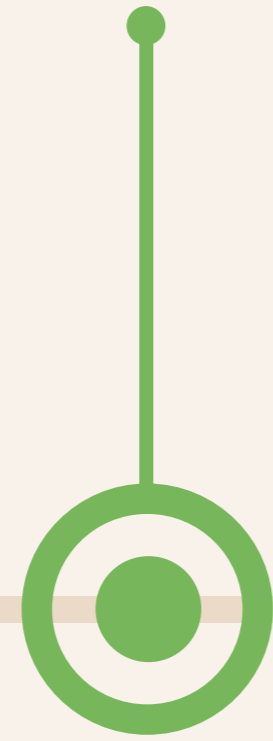


## **Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, Houston, Texas**

April 20, 1975, the burgeoning ministry was officially chartered and MCCR was born.



## First Pastor Found



**1975**

On June 15, 1975, Rev. Robert Falls of Oklahoma City arrived to serve as the first pastor.

**COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!**  
If you need friends, new directions and dimensions in your life, you can find it here!  
Nothing to lose – everything to gain!

**The Metropolitan Community Church  
of the Resurrection**

1214 Joe Annie † P.O. Box 13731 † Houston 77019  
Sunday services 1pm & 7:30pm Rev. Robert M. Falls, pastor  
phone (713) 526-8233

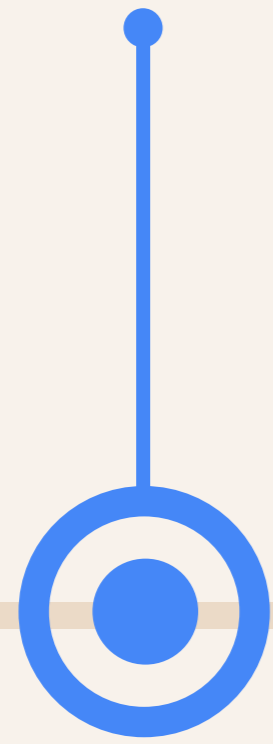
Page 18 **1976** This Week: Jan. 24-30





Standing-room-only crowds soon pushed MCC  
of the Resurrection to re-home to an old  
converted printing shop.

## 1214 Joe Annie



**1975**







Following Rev. Falls's resignation in July 1976, the search for a new pastor culminated in the election of Rev. Jeri Ann Harvey on December 5, 1976.

M.C.C.R.

**Worship With Us!**  
If you need friends, new directions and dimensions in your life, you can find it here!  
Nothing to lose — everything to gain!

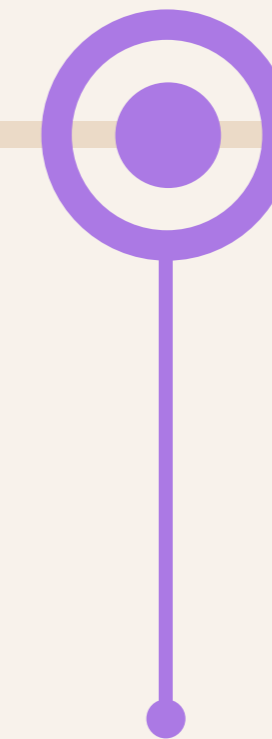
**The Metropolitan Community Church  
of the Resurrection**

1214 Joe Annie † P.O. Box 13731 † Houston, Texas 77019  
Sunday Services 11am & 7:30pm † Phone (713) 526-8233

This Week: March 19-25

**1977** Page 45

**1976**

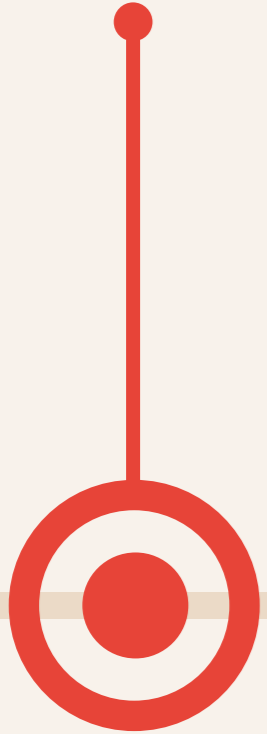


**Election of a New  
Pastor**



# Third Pastor Found

Following Rev. Harvey's departure, the subsequent pastoral search led to the calling of Rev. Charles Larsen, who became the third pastor of MCCR in January of 1979.




1979

UPFRONT

JANUARY 26, 1979

## Religion

### Larsen Assumes Pastorate At Metropolitan Church



UPFRONT PHOTOGRAPHER: J. HARDY WILLIAMS

REV. CHARLES LARSEN, formerly of the San Francisco MCC, conducts his first service since assuming the pastorate of Houston's Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Formal installation will be Sunday, Feb. 25.

The Reverend Charles W. Larsen, M. Div., delivered his first sermon as pastor of Houston's Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection. Larsen comes to Houston from San Francisco where he held the pulpit of that city's Metropolitan Community Church. Both of Larsen's sermons on Sunday (Jan. 14) morning and evening dealt with new beginnings and with allowing God to remodel all for His

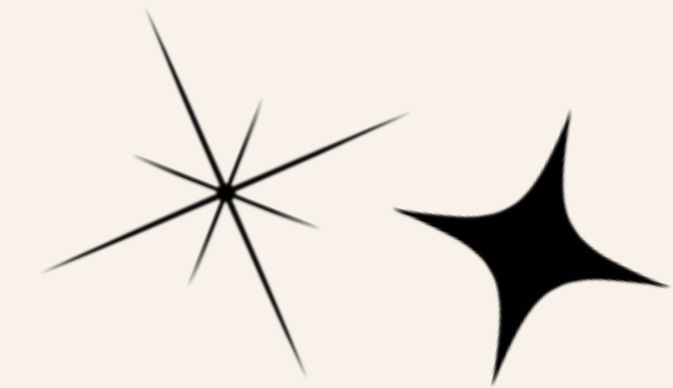
work and mission at MCCR. During the morning service a Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches clock was presented to Pastor Larsen by Annette Beall, of the MCCR Board of Directors.

Larsen takes the helm at the MCCR after a nine month period in which the church has been without an official pastor. During the time since Jeri Harvey resigned her position as minister, services have been conducted by a series of visiting clergy and local laypersons. Larsen's official installation is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25.

When asked for his feelings about his church's newest shepherd, a parishoner stated *God's healing presence enfolded the congregations at both services on Sunday as a feeling of relief flooded over all, including the new Pastor. Positive thoughts and optimistic feelings pervaded the congregation that now, after nine months of being without a Pastor, the church could again work with a Pastor to continue the study and practice of God's word and His will.*

Larsen closed the services with his traditional Irish blessing:  
*May the road rise up to meet you  
 May the wind be ever at your back;  
 May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
 the rains fall soft upon your shoulders;  
 And, until we meet again, may God hold each of us and those we love,  
 right in the palm of His hand.*





**1979**



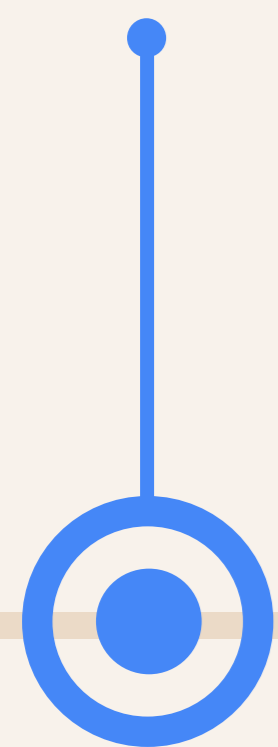
**1919 Decatur**

The church had once again outgrown its facilities. On Easter Sunday 1979, the church moved from Jo Annie Street to 1919 Decatur Street.



## Fourth Pastor Elected

Rev. Larsen resigned in June 1985. Rev. Elder John Gill followed him as pastor in November 1985.



1985



### Rev. John Gill Takes The MCCR Pulpit

By Linda Wyche  
Montrose Voice Managing Editor

"Please call me John." Rev. John Gill, new minister at Houston's Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection (MCCR) prefers to forgo the conventional titular adornment afforded members of the clergy. This in itself is part of the unassuming character of the man called to lead the 532-member MCCR congregation.

The handsome 40-year-old Gill began his ministry in Houston on Nov. 3 after almost 10 years as pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. MCCR is Gill's third Metropolitan Community Church pastorate. Before serving in Florida, he was founding pastor of MCC Atlanta.

Gill says he received the call to minister to gay men and women as director of youth activities at a Presbyterian church. In 1971, as a recent Princeton Theological Seminary graduate, he met nationally-known MCC minister Rev. Troy Perry in 1971. Soon after meeting Perry, he was ordained an MCC minister.

New challenge is part of the reason Gill left Florida for Houston. He says, "There's always more you can do." The minister with the expressive eyes and hands that move with the excitement in his voice adds, "Part of it is a call of Christian ministry and part is who I am."

Another part of John Gill is a sensitive individual who repeatedly uses the words "positive, uplifting, enabling and loving" in describing the purpose of the church. He feels that one of the needs of Houston's gay community involves reaching out to the thousands more with a deep seated need to develop and explore spirituality. "If money can't do it, if a lover can't do it all the way, maybe you should try something else," explains Gill.

Many members of the gay community have not explored spirituality because of the current right-wing, homophobic, fundamentalist preaching of many of today's media-grabbing clergy. Gill expounds, "These are pronouncements by Christian



Rev. John Gill in his study at MCCR. (Roger Lackey photo).

ministers, not Christianity."

"Many gays and lesbians confuse the church with the faith. I always say 'There's nothing wrong with the product but how it is marketed.'"

John Gill doesn't flail Bibles or beat the bushes looking for new church members. "We've learned lessons. We've come from that. I believe some Christians are going to heaven because they want to, not just to keep from going to hell," Gill says with a gentle smile.

Gill continues by saying that people are called to the church and must be prepared for a commitment to minister. That ministry can come in forms as simple as regular attendance.

Under Gill's pastorate, MCCR's commitment to ministry will greatly involve the KS/AIDS Foundation. "The church has to be involved. We must have a spiritual min-

istry to people with AIDS and their families.

"We have to see what we can do for the community. We will base what we have to offer on what we do. This crisis will test the church," explains Gill.

Aside from coming to Houston to meet spiritual needs, John Gill—the person, just plain likes the place. He finds that, in addition to the cultural environment, he is impressed with the calibre of people. "People here are very genuine, open and receptive. They don't play roles."

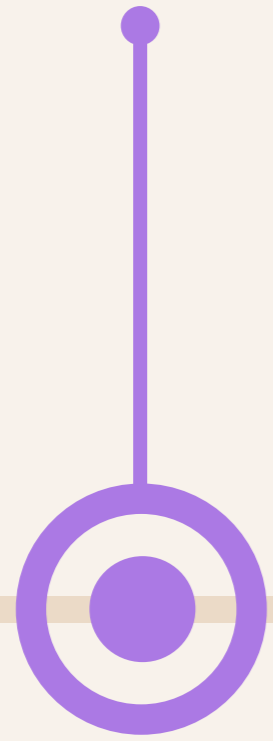
"You can meet three people in 10 minutes and in an hour know 30," he says in a tone more sincere than mere flattery.

Rev. John Gill will be installed on Sunday, Dec. 1, by Rev. Troy Perry. As successor to Rev. Charles Larsen, he has some big shoes to fill. It is almost certain he will fill them with positive, uplifting and enabling love.

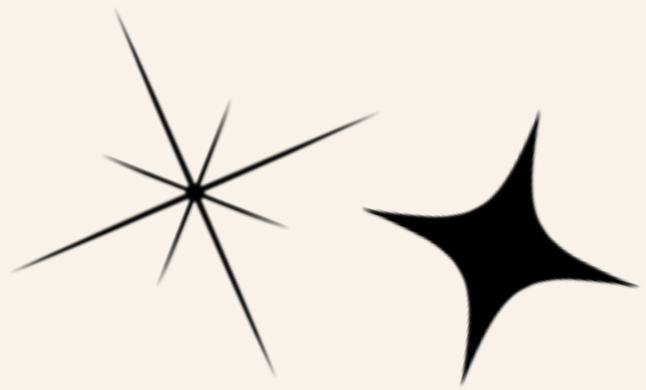


## New Pastor Named

Rev. Gill was later called to lead a church in St. Petersburg, Florida. After a lengthy search, Rev. Dwayne Johnson came to MCCR as its newest Senior Pastor.



1996



*MCC of the Resurrection*  
Introduces with **PRIDE**

Preaching Sunday, our new  
September 15, 1996 Senior  
at 9 AM & 11 AM Pastor



*Reverend  
Dwayne  
Johnson*



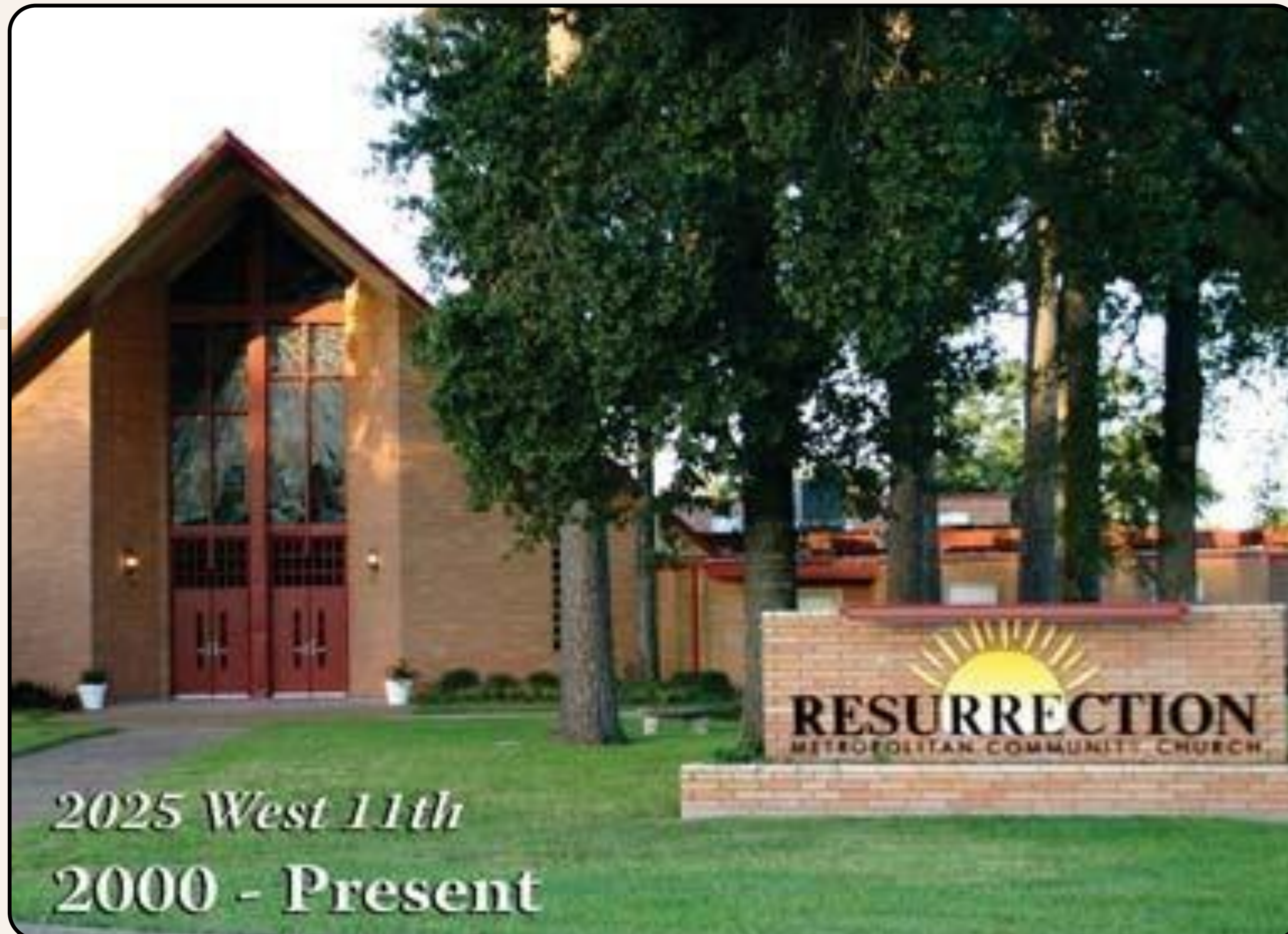
**MCCR**

*Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection  
1919 Decatur † Houston, Tx † 861-9149*

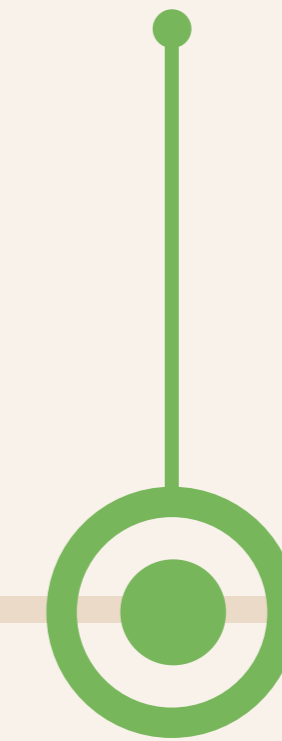
*Celebrating God's  
Unconditional Love*



RMCC grew from approximately 300 to nearly 600 members and moved from a small, overcrowded facility to a spacious 10-acre campus.



**2025 West 11th**



**2000**





# 45 Years of Love and Action

Resurrection MCC marks milestone anniversary.

By Rich Arenschioldt

Photo by Dalton DeHart

**R**esurrection Metropolitan Community Church, a bedrock for Houston's LGBTQ people of faith, celebrates 45 years of ministry with several special events planned during the latter part of April. A gala on April 29 celebrates "45 Years of Love and Action" with a dinner, dancing, and an art auction. Sunday services will also celebrate past successes and future plans.

"On Sunday, April 23, we will remember our history and accomplishments," says Rev. Troy Treash, Resurrection MCC's senior pastor. "The following week's gathering will be focused on our present and future plans. After services on the 30th, we will host a 1972-themed 'all come' free event."

Rev. Vickey Gibbs, the church's associate pastor and a member since 1981, shared recollections from Resurrection's modest beginnings in the early '70s. "The MCC denomination was formed in 1969 by a Los Angeles-area evangelical pastor. Houston's first MCC church (and its 43 members) met in a rented bicycle shop on Waugh Drive. We started as [and still are] a 'sanctuary movement'—a church where people can worship together in safety."

"Our mission," Treash says, "is to demonstrate God's inclusive love to all people through Christ-like action. Our core beliefs center on social justice, spiritual transformation, community, and inclusiveness. These comprise our ethos; everything we do responds back to them."

Given the church's standing in the community and its thriving campus, it's difficult to imagine that throughout its history, calamities rivaling those chronicled in the Book of Exodus have occurred at regular intervals. Unsurprisingly, adversity always seems to energize this community rather than debilitate it.

"We have been through fire, plague, and flood," Rev. Gibbs says. "In 1979, the Ku Klux Klan arrived and threatened to destroy our building. They ignited a cross on our lawn, but under the fierce leadership of then-pastor Jeri Ann Harvey, the congregation protected the sanctuary from damage."



Faith + Community

Resurrection MCC senior pastor Troy Treash says the church's mission is to demonstrate God's inclusive love to all people through Christ-like action.

"We always experience unexpected results when confronted with challenges," says Gibbs. "During [the early days of] HIV/AIDS we lost half of our members, and still our congregation coalesced. Gay men and lesbians came together, no longer merely worshipping side by side, but jointly ministering to those in crucial need. This was our experience with 'plague,' and much of what we did during those years informs our work now—caring for people, speaking out for the marginalized, protecting the oppressed. Our past experience provides present-day expertise."

And then... there was "flood." Due to Resurrection MCC's proximity to White Oak Bayou, Tropical Storm Allison inundated the church with Noah-esque floodwaters.

"In 2001, we had only been in the building six months when the storm flooded our space with four feet of water, forcing us to move to the activity center located on higher ground," Treash says. "But again, we were able to be blessed. During reconstruction, we reconfigured space to better meet our needs."

Trials and tribulations have a way of energizing and steeling Resurrection's ministry—a legacy that should prove to be helpful in the current political climate. "We are living in Jesus' time," Treash observes. "The Romans occupied and then marginalized the Jews, while the wealthy establishment simply wanted to

maintain the status quo. The parallels are unmistakable: how do we address issues surrounding 'empire,' wealth, and power? What does it mean to live in culturally diverse times? How are we to be disciples? For answers, we must look at the way Jesus lived."

"As a people concerned with equality, how do we travel together so that no individual is left behind?" Gibbs says. "The power structure today works by building wedges and dividing communities. We counter that through education 'in community' with one another. After the failure of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance [HERO] and the backlash against marriage equality, Resurrection increased its programming related to social justice."

Treash encapsulates it thusly: "In a familiar parable, the [despised] Samaritan renders aid to a Jew who was beaten and left for dead. The Jew wakes up and says: 'Who helped me?' Similarly, we must continue to see each other as *human*—especially those whose views differ from our own. We *can* walk alongside each other. The next four years will be interesting."

"Resurrection MCC has been on a 45-year experiment of what 'love and action' looks like. We will continue doing this work, even more explicitly than in the past."

Rich Arenschioldt is a frequent contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.



2013



## Current Senior Pastor Found

Rev. Johnson's successor, Reverend Troy Plummer Treash was elected and began his tenure the first Sunday of March in 2013.



More than 50 years ago, the first members of Resurrection MCC had the audacity to imagine that a church of Resurrection MCC's magnitude was possible from such humble beginnings.







# Resurrection MCC's **Vision**

"To demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christ-like action," where inclusivity is a nonnegotiable value to be lived out daily.





**01**

**Leadership, Vision, and Organizational Growth**

**02**

**Visibility and Engagement**

**03**

**Financial Acumen, Effective Stewardship, and Donor Development**

**04**

**Advocacy, Unification, and Community Presence**



## **Pastor Profile**

RMCC seeks a Senior Pastor who will help the congregation realize its vision of spiritual maturity, growth, and financial stability.







### Leadership, Vision, and Organizational Growth

- Experienced pastor or spiritual leader with a proven history of leading large organizations, ensuring congregational vitality through effective ministries.
- Capable and motivating manager, skilled in empowering staff and volunteers for team ministry in a complex urban church. Provides vision and direction in serving God, the church, and the community.
- Transformational leader experienced in leading growing churches or organizations. Proficient in managing change and conflict resolution, overseeing large congregations and Executive Teams.

### Visibility and Engagement

- Dynamic and compelling speaker, skilled in oratory, delivering inspiring and scripture-rooted sermons relevant to everyday life. Communicates effectively across diverse faith traditions, translating scripture into engaging life lessons for the congregation's growth and grounding.
- Confident evangelist with strong interpersonal, public speaking, and media relations skills. Fosters effective staff management, garners trust from the congregation, and demonstrates persuasive communication both from the pulpit and in the press.







### Financial Acumen, Effective Stewardship, and Donor Development

- Competent director with strong financial management skills, promoting financial discipline and conveying a vision of growth to the congregation.
- Model of Christian stewardship, fostering a climate of generous giving and responsible stewardship within the congregation.
- Expert in donor relations, creating strategies and programs to enhance giving. Cultivates and expands relationships with key constituents and donors, aligning with Resurrection MCC's mission of demonstrating God's love through Christ-like action.

### Advocacy, Unification, and Community Presence

- Social justice advocate, leading the community in valuing every person and standing in solidarity with the marginalized. Works actively to eliminate injustice, address human rights abuses, and inspire future spiritual activists.
- Advocate for cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity, engaging with individuals and organizations driving social change. Embraces diversity as a core value, fostering understanding across various lines, and actively seeks to include underrepresented groups per the church's demographics. Inclusivity is a personal lifestyle choice for this Senior Pastor.
- Practical theologian, collaborating with Christian and interfaith bodies to raise awareness about the spiritual journeys of LGBTQ+ people of faith. Strives for unity, mutual respect, toleration, and cooperation among different denominations and world religions.







**Our congregation strives to create an inclusive and vibrant space where everyone can find inspiration, support, and a sense of belonging.**

At Resurrection MCC, we are dedicated to envisioning the growth and expansion of our ministries, catering to all ages and encompassing mentoring programs, wellness support, spiritual growth, and artistic expressions. Embracing diversity as a core strength, we model the transformative power of forging community partnerships and stand unwaveringly as a voice for equality.







This remarkable decade with Troy, his husband Walter, and their teenage son Michael has witnessed unprecedented evolution and resilience in the life of Resurrection, from devastation to recovery following Hurricane Harvey to enduring and overcoming the ravages of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

**We are still here, still vibrant, shored by God's everlasting promise that we will not be forsaken.**







**We are grateful you are taking the time to consider whether Resurrection MCC is where God is calling your ministry.**

***We will be praying for you, as well as for Resurrection MCC, throughout this process. We hope to fill the position of Senior Pastor by no later than February 2024, and would therefore like to have your application in hand as soon as possible and no later than November 1, 2023.***

**All applications and referrals will be kept strictly confidential.**



# We look forward to hearing from you!

To see more of Resurrection's *Love in Action*, we invite you to view our worship services, special events, choir concerts and other events here:

<https://www.facebook.com/ResurrectionMCC/videos>

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=resurrection+mcc+church+houston](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=resurrection+mcc+church+houston)

**Yours faithfully,**  
**The Resurrection MCC Pastoral Search Committee**

[Pastoral Search Website](#)

[PastoralSearchCommittee@ResurrectionMCC.org](mailto:PastoralSearchCommittee@ResurrectionMCC.org)