

## **REPORT OF THE Governing Board Nominating Committee TO GENERAL CONFERENCE XXVI**

The Governing Board Nominating Committee (GBNC) has been meeting the past year every month to conduct the search process for candidates to the MCC Governing Board. The first step in the process was to review the last candidate cycle, identify the qualities needed for the next Governing Board, and look at needs during the moderator transition.

The GBNC is pleased to offer the following slate of candidates for the MCC Governing Board. The committee has spent a considerable amount of time looking through each of the candidates' resumes, reading through their answers to questions, conducting one-on-one interviews and checking their references.

We are so pleased at the quality of the candidates and we have included bios and videos for each candidate. The committee would like to encourage each of you to get to know the candidates better and share their information with folks in your church.

If you have any questions about the process or the steps moving forward, please contact the GBNC at [gbnc@mccchurch.net](mailto:gbnc@mccchurch.net).

*Respectfully,*

*Mark Kornmann  
Rev. Tijuana Gray  
Kakay Pamaran  
Governing Board Nominating Committee*

<http://mccchurch.org/gbnc-about-us/>

<http://governingboard.mccchurch.org/committees-task-forces-teams/governing-board-nominating-committee/>

# 2016 MCC Governing Board Slate of Candidates April 2016

## Clergy Candidates:



**Onetta Brooks**

Inglewood, CA

Rev. Onetta was born and raised in Los Angeles, California (USA). She majored in mathematics and earned a BA from Pomona College; Master of Public Administration from California State University Dominguez Hills, CA and Master of Divinity from San Francisco Theological Seminary/Southern California in 2007. She was UFMCC ordained in January 2007.

Onetta has thirty-four years of professional secular experience as a program manager/systems/software engineer for leading aerospace companies.

She was elected in 2010 and currently serving on the MCC Governing Board. She currently serves as Secretary and Chair of the Governance Committee for the past six years. She has served as Vice-Chair for one year and a member of the Finance Committee for two years. Also, she is a member of the Pomona College Alumni Association Board 2012-2017; currently serving as President and an ex-officio Pomona College trustee.

Rev. Onetta has been a member of (Founders) MCC Los Angeles since 1998. She has served on numerous MCC leadership teams on the local church, regional and/or denominational level, including MCC's Region 1 Worship Coordinator 2004; Region 6 Worship Coordinator 2009; Elders/Moderator Nominating Committee 2009/10; Southern California Nevada Network Team 2009-2012 and MCC People of African Descent. She possesses spiritual gifts of wisdom, leadership, administration and discernment.

After receiving International Interim Specialist training in December 2007, Rev. Onetta served as an Intentional Interim Pastor for two MCC congregations: Christ Chapel MCC in Santa Ana, CA from December 2007-May 2009; and MCC of Northern Virginia in Fairfax, VA from June 2012-August 2013.



**Joe Cobb**  
Roanoke, VA

Joe lives in Roanoke, Virginia, with his partner, James, and their two children, Ginny and JJ. Their family also includes a daughter, Emma and her husband, Connor Gwin, and a son, Taylor.

Joe was ordained as an MCC clergy in 2006 and served as Pastor of the MCC of Winston-Salem from 2007-2008. Joe has served as the Eastern U.S. Network Lead and as the Campaign Coordinator for *Would Jesus Discriminate?* Prior to this, Joe served as a United Methodist Clergy in Texas, England and Kansas, from 1985-2001. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Texas and a Bachelor of Philosophy degree from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.

Joe is co-author of *Our Family Outing: A Memoir of Coming Out and Coming Through*, written with his former spouse, Rev. Leigh Anne Taylor. The book is a unique, two voice narrative of a gay man and straight woman and their journey through marriage, children, coming out, divorce, healing, reconciliation and creating a new way of being family.

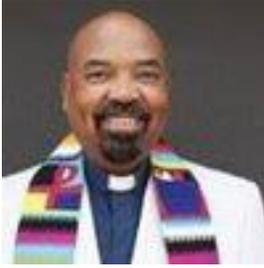


## **Jakob Hero**

Tampa, FL

Rev. Jakob Hero is the senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Tampa, in Tampa, Florida. He has also worked as a palliative care chaplain and has coordinated the Transgender Roundtable at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry since 2011. Jakob graduated with his Master of Divinity degree and Certificate in Sexuality and Religion in 2011 from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, where he earned the 2011 Paul Yinger Award for Excellence in Preaching and the Marcella Althaus-Reid Award in Queer Theology. Jakob also completed a Master of Arts degree in Ethics and Social Theory in 2012 from the Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, and was awarded the 2012 Michael Mendiola Award in Ethics.

Prior to attending seminary, Jakob served as an international volunteer for LGBT human rights, throughout Eastern Europe, primarily in Zagreb, Croatia. Jakob believes strongly in the importance of diversity and racial justice and is an enthusiastic supporter of the growth of MCC globally through the Emerging Churches Program. He believes that followers of Christ are called to advocate for those at the margins. Jakob can attest to the importance and transformational power that church can have in all our lives. As a transgender man, it was his church home that helped him to discover that God loves him and called him to be the person he is. Jakob's greatest joy is raising two phenomenal kids with his partner, Allan.



## **William Hubbard Knight**

Hilo, HI

The transition from actor, singer, producer, writer and director to minister, teacher, and counselor began on a Wednesday night when William attended a class being held at the home of legendary singer/actress Della Reese. This first meeting was to become a working relationship that endured and prospered for over twenty-three years.

In August of 1995, William was ordained as a minister. He received a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Metaphysics from the University of Metaphysics and a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the University of Sedona.

In 2007, his spiritual path led him to the welcoming arms of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. He has served as Intentional Interim Minister at Water of Life MCC in Tucson, Arizona, Intentional Interim Minister at MCC of San Jose, California, Provisional Pastor of MCC San Francisco, and is now serving as Pastor of Open Arms MCC on the Big Island of Hawaii.

While participating in the above, Rev William was involved in supporting the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF), Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN), Wingspan- Southern Arizona's LGBT Community Center, and the Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce. He was speaker at several rallies against the discriminatory legislation banning gay marriage and was one of the speakers to advocate for the Marriage Equality Bill in Hawaii that recently became law.

Rev. William has participated in Inter-Faith services in Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Tucson, San Jose, San Francisco and here on the Big Island. Rev. Dr. Knight is a great believer in the important role that the church plays in the health and well-being of the community. He firmly and completely believes that when the church is involved and dedicated to translating the "Good News" of God's radically inclusive love into concrete actions, everyone is blessed.



## **Stephanie Burns**

Naples, FL

Rev. Dr. Stephanie Burns has been part of the ministry of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) for the past twenty-three years and has served as MCC clergy for the past fourteen years. Rev. Burns served multiple congregations as an intentional interim, a church planter/founding pastor, and as staff clergy in Virginia prior to accepting a call to serve the local Metropolitan Community Church in Naples, FL in October 2012. She has also served in multiple MCC leadership capacities including the Church Planting Education team and as a Network Leader of the Eastern Central Network. Rev. Burns has extensive experience in the areas of church conflict resolution and mediation, as both a facilitator and trainer, and has completed Virginia Workplace, Family and Church Mediator Certification Training.

Rev. Burns has over twenty-five years of professional experience in the private sector, university and community organizations, in the areas of programmatic and financial management, administration, policy, and strategic planning and development. She has managed annual program contract budgets of over \$500,000, developed, monitored and managed program budgets including labor and contract expenses, and developed and implemented strategic plans, project policies and internal governance structures.

Rev. Burns received her Masters of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC (2003) and her Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, VA (2009). In addition to serving at New Day MCC of Naples, FL, Rev. Burns is active in the community in the areas of hunger, homelessness, poverty and LGBTQ justice issues on the local, state and national levels. She lives in Naples, FL with her partner of 23 years, Tracey.

## **Lay Candidates:**



### **Kimberly Brown**

Sandy, Oregon

Kimberly S. Brown is a self-employed attorney living and working near Sandy, Oregon, on the west coast of the United States. For 17 years, Kimberly has worked with clients who are in the midst of family law litigation and as a consultant for non-profit organizations from churches to at-large membership organizations. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Kimberly worked in nonprofit management for three different organizations providing free legal services to the poor.

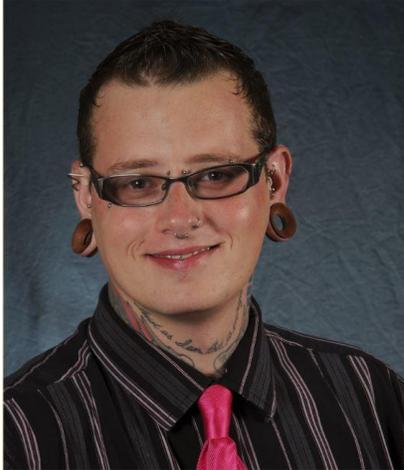
While Kimberly currently lives in Oregon, her childhood was spent in Bogota, Columbia, Nicosia, Cyprus, Khartoum, Sudan and Alice Springs, Australia. When she was 20 years old she spent 8 months working for the American Embassy in Beijing China for eight months. Kimberly believes her childhood lived in such diverse and different cultures helped make her the person she is today.

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland is Kimberly's home church. She began attending in January 1989 and has never left. The love of God and her church community have been an integral part of more than half of her life. She has grown, changed and succeeded in response to the love of God and her community.

Kimberly has served in various positions of ministry for MCC Portland and the denomination. Currently, Kimberly is the legal counsel for MCC Portland. Throughout the years she has served on the board of directors, taught Sunday school and helped lead the church during periods of transition. From June 2012 through June 2014, Kimberly served as the Interim Pastoral Leader of Emerald City MCC Seattle. She has led board of directors training for churches from Oregon to Florida, and in Melbourne and Brisbane, Australia. Over the years, she has worked with the denomination assisting churches who have found themselves in difficult legal situations.

In addition to her work with MCC Portland, Kimberly has had more than 30 year's experience with nonprofit organizations. At the age of 22, she worked with five other passionate people to open Our House of Portland, an AIDS support organization that continues to be successful to this day. She was on the steering committee of the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association, going on to serve as co-chair of the organization. As part of her work with OGALLA she helped coordinate a national law conference in Portland, Oregon. While in law school, she worked to bring LGBTQ issues to the forefront in protest to the Solomon Amendment, a congressional mandate to allow military recruitment on school campus during the time when the armed services still discriminated against LGBTQ persons serving in the military. After she opened her law practice in the city of Sandy, she served as the president of the Sandy Chamber of Commerce.

In September 1989, Kimberly met her Beloved, Gail Bumala, at MCC Portland. They had a holy union on June 23, 1990 and have been happily wedded ever since. They live in Boring, Oregon (sister city of Dull, Scotland!) with her mother-in-law, Marj Bumala, who is also a member of MCC Portland, their dog, Finn and two cats, Zane Grey and Caterina.



**Angel Collie**  
Chapel Hill, NC

Angel is a transmasculine person from rural North Carolina. He spends his days working as the Assistant Director of the LGBTQ Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He came back to Chapel Hill where he received his BA in Religious Studies with minors in both Women's Studies and Sexuality Studies after obtaining his Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School.

Angel is involved widely as a member of the LGBT-Religious Archives Network Advisory Committee, The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Transgender Roundtable, the Freedom Center for Social Justice board, MCC's Trans and GNC working group, and is on the steering committee for the National Religious Leaders Roundtable of the National LGBTQ Task Force.

Angel is proud of his involvement in the 2006 & 2007 Soulforce Equality Rides and the 9 years he served on staff with MCC. During his time at Yale Divinity School, Angel was elected by his peers to serve on the Diversity Committee and the Graduate & Professional Student Senate. He held student positions with the Office of LGBTQ Resources and the Chaplain's Office where he co-founded W{holy} Queer. Most recently, he was honored to be included in the 2014 Trans 100.

Angel has traveled extensively, working with trans\* and gender non-conforming communities and faith communities nationally and internationally. He is super excited to be back in the Southern part of heaven where he lives with his partner, two cats, and Australian Shepherd named Scooter.



## **Mark Dalgeish**

Wollstonecraft, Australia

Mark Dalgeish is a UK-born medical doctor, currently working and living in Melbourne, Australia. Born in Glasgow to a family of 7 siblings, he left home at 18 years old to study medicine in Aberdeen, in the North East of Scotland. He is a fully trained GP (Family Doctor), having completed his specialist training in General Practice in London in 2010.

He has particular interest and experience in Palliative Medicine, Mental and Sexual Health, and works part time in a clinic in Melbourne as well as part time in youth mental and sexual health in Geelong. He has recently completed a period of palliative care work in Geelong, and prior to this, back in Glasgow, Scotland. In his role as a doctor with a diverse portfolio, Mark has served on advisory boards in the pharmaceutical industry, and also in Primary Care Networks. He also currently does casual teaching at Monash University, and has also assisted in teaching and examinations at Deakin University and the University of Sydney.

As well as his medical work, Mark also studies theology at the Australian Catholic University, and is embarked on research into existential and spiritual distress, particularly in the terminal phases of illness and palliative care.

Having been brought up, initially in a Presbyterian Church of Scotland, and then later in a Baptist church, Mark became involved in MCC in 2008 when he started attending MCC North London after a particularly challenging time in his life dealing with conflicts in identity, faith and personal health. This involvement in local MCC congregations continued when he moved back to Melbourne in 2011, where he had been living before moving to London, and he was involved in MCC Melbourne's board of directors, and in the worship teams of both MCC Melbourne and MCC Sydney.

He was appointed on the Moderator's International Task Force in 2011, and later that year also joined the steering committee for this. His time on the ITF gave him the opportunity to demonstrate leadership abilities, arranging and chairing meetings, negotiating and consulting with individuals within and out-with MCC, including the Council of Elders and the Governing Board, and reflecting on, exploring and addressing ideas, concerns, expectations and hopes of people from all around the World. Mark hopes to continue this exciting work and engagement with MCC worldwide, as the church moves forward into the 21st Century, developing its inclusive and relevant ministry all around the World.

### **Open Positions:**

At the MCC General Conference, we will be electing four clergy positions. Two will be for six-year terms and the other two will be for three-year terms. The two highest vote totals will receive the full six-year terms and the remaining two candidates will receive the three-year terms. There are two lay positions for a full six-year term.

### **Governing Board Nominating Committee - Candidates**

**Webpage: <http://mccchurch.org/gbnc-candidates/>**