

Keepers of the Dream



Metropolitan Community Church Key West
2007-2008 Stewardship Campaign

*Let there be an offering to sustain and strengthen this place
which is sacred to so many of us, a community of memory and
of hope, for we are now keepers of the dream.*

Brandoch L. Lovely

Keepers of the Dream

Dear MCC Friend,

Keepers of the Dream, is the theme of our 2007-2008 stewardship campaign. We are an eclectic, diverse group of people who find ourselves in Key West during critical times.

In the coming weeks all of us will have an opportunity to pledge our time and talent and our financial resources to support our church in the coming year.

Our stewardship goal is to give everyone the opportunity to make a pledge and everyone the opportunity to receive. Every member and friend should prayerfully consider pledging toward the ministries of our church.

Pledges will become the backbone of our ministry plan and budget in 2008.

Enclosed you will find information on our ministries, how to make your pledge, and why your pledge is needed today.

We are keepers of a dream which began on our island over 27 years ago. Help us keep the dream alive and vibrant as we look into the future which God has called us to create.

Faithfully,

Rev. Allen Hinand, Stewardship Team Chair



Rev. Charles Tigard, Interim Pastor



Vicki Gordon, Vice Moderator Board of Directors



We are Keepers of this Dream



"I was moving in the direction back toward a spiritual community for a long- long time. I love the feeling of having God with me. My spirituality was always there. When I walked into MCC for the first time, I knew I was home."

"I just have to say thank you once in a while to let you know what a joy it is to have a 'real home cooked' meal delivered to my apartment every Saturday at noon."

"One Sunday, staying at a guest house on Fleming St. a young man said at breakfast that he was going to MCC and would anyone care to come along? Every time I am in Key West I have never missed Sunday service at MCC. Thank you God for bringing me home to an all-accepting church!"

"Just a quick note to say how much we are enjoying our return to MCC Key West. There is truly a 'sweet, sweet, spirit in this place.'"

Gathering & Investing Our Abundance

Our annual budget is the plan for how we will gather and invest the resources entrusted to us by members, visitors, donors, and the larger Key West community. The 2008 budget/ministry plan will be reviewed and approved by our church in January.

Pledged income is our largest single source of revenue. When you pledge, it tells us what we can reasonably forecast our income to be determining the scope of the church's ministries for the coming year.

We need everyone to pledge so that we can effectively plan the stewardship of all the resources given to us.

2007 Accomplishments

Your generous contributions in 2007 helped us to achieve....

- 58 transformational worship services
- 5,720 Hot Meals delivered to seniors through our Cooking with Love program
- 1,144 Bags of groceries distributed to the homeless and working poor
- Membership and participation in the Key West Ecumenical Minister's Alliance
- Hired Rev. Tigard to guide us through our Interim Journey
- Sent 2 delegates to represent Key West at the MCC General Conference
- Provided \$12, 023 in funding (January- September) toward the MCC worldwide mission
- Provided space for confidential HIV testing
- Increased our visibility in the community with new advertising, and a rack card program in Key West guest houses



2007 Accomplishments....

- Our commercial kitchen and fellowship hall was used for nutrition programs for persons living with HIV/AIDS, to cook meals for seniors, and hospitality following Sunday worship
- Our church provided space for community events including the HIV Community Partnership/ HIV Caregiver Meetings, Hospice training, the Gay and Lesbian Center, and other community gatherings
- Our benevolence fund helped 10 individuals with requests for financial assistance
- Provided a home for 312 Alcoholic Anonymous Meetings
- Created and sustained community partnerships with the Interdenominational Ministers Alliance, Zonta Women's Club, Monroe County Health Department, AIDS Help, the Key West Gay and Lesbian Center, and KISS AA.
- Replaced awning and repaired air conditioning units
- Increased worship attendance overall (January- September) by
- Visibility at Key West Pridefest, Christmas Parade, and Womenfest week
- Acquired ministry database to track donor information, Cooking with Love clients, and ministry volunteers. Created back up systems for all church data.

2007 was a period of growth but we have much more to do in 2008.

With increased pledging we can expand our ministries....

- Expand our music ministry
- Hire a part time church administrator to staff our office and provide support to the Pastor
- Prepare for our pastoral search and hire a well qualified settled pastor
- Address deferred maintenance issues with our building
- Continue to meet the needs of our community with growing Cooking with Love and grocery pantry programs
- Develop strategies to pay off the church's mortgage
- Begin an eco-church program toward becoming better stewards of our environment
- Fund a reserve account to provide financial stability for our ministries throughout all seasons of the year
- Continue and expand community visibility with advertising in local publications
- Action/reflection groups to confront change in Florida laws on gay marriage and adoption.



Gathering Our Abundance

MCC Key West Year to Date Income Summary

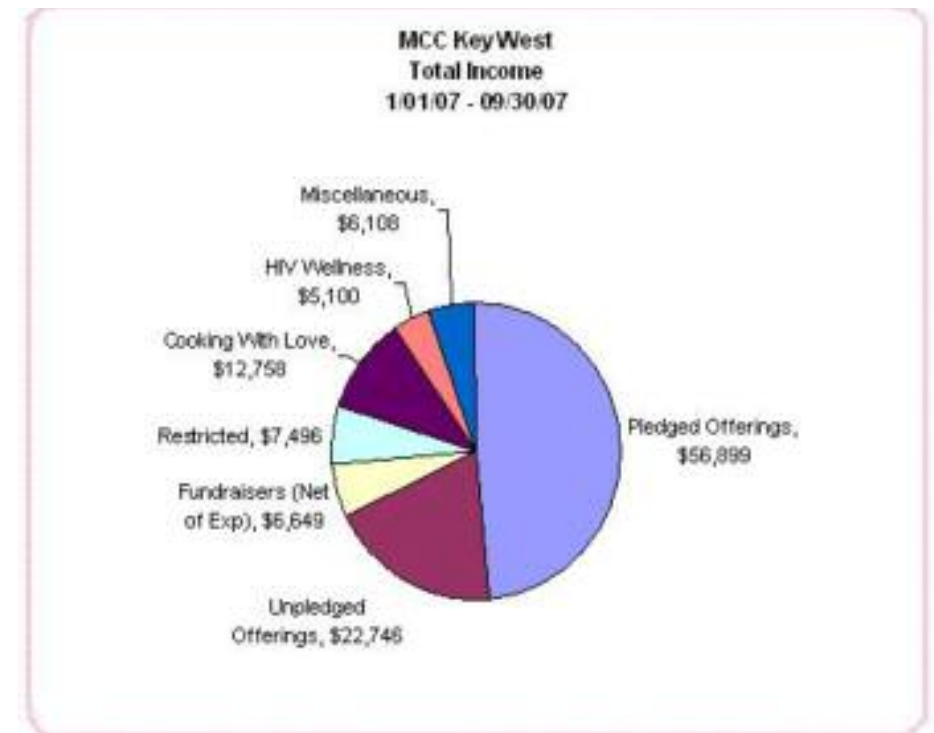
49% of all income is comes from pledged offerings*

19% of income from unpledged Sunday offerings

11% of income from Cooking with Love sponsorships and fundraisers

6% of income from community fundraisers for the general fund
6% of income was gifts for restricted purposes

**Pledged gifts are by far the largest portion of our annual income*





Investing Our Abundance

MCC Key West Year to date Expense Summary

Highlights of services provided to our community

Ministry of Worship/ Music

- Choir •Guest Musicians •Maintenance of music library and sanctuary instruments (piano, organ) •Music Director and Choral Director

Ministry of the Building (includes building ministries and principle and interest on mortgage)

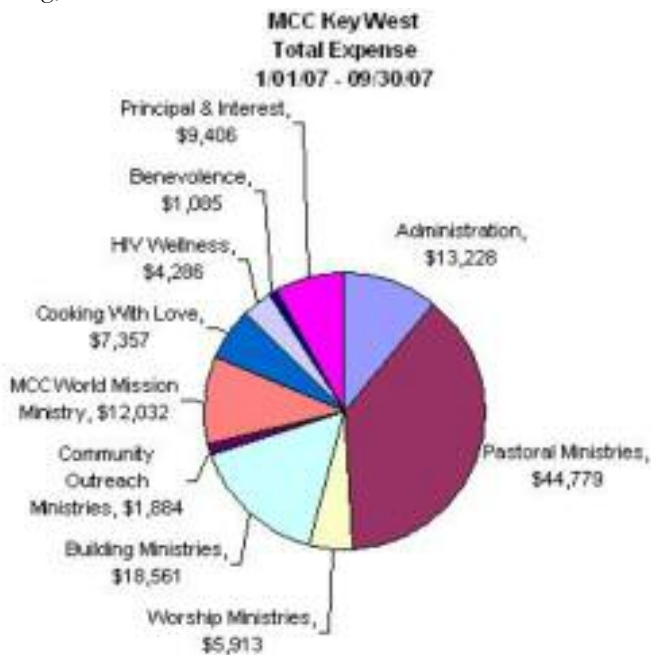
- An open and accessible building to support our mission and visions • Serves as a home for multiple community groups, including Alcoholic Anonymous and Free HIV testing. •Maintainence a beautiful sanctuary as an open space for daily prayer and mediation. •Weekly inspirational services. •Our commercial kitchen serves over 100 meals weekly, and provides a facility for the ministry of hospitality during events, meetings, and worship services.

Ministry of the Pastor

- Spiritual Care and Counseling •Spiritual Teaching and Leadership •Support for Strategic planning/Vision •Administration •Leading and planning transformational worship services •Spiritual development/ education •Spokesperson to the larger community •Leading transformational Community Worship Special Services (Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Blessing of the Animals) •Ceremonies for Life Transitions Marriages/ Holy Unions Funerals/ Memorials Other Ceremonies for life transitions

Ministry of the Administration

- Provides services to walk ins •Website that reaches hundreds with the message of MCC Key West •Communication support through e-mail and telephone •Referrals to community services •Management of weekly administrative tasks including weekly financial deposits, maintenance, programming, and communication



How to Calculate your Pledge

1 Write down the amount of your 2007 Income

If you don't know what your income will be next year, make a guess or start with your 2006 income. Don't worry too much about this number. If your circumstances change, you can always adjust the amount of your pledge.

\$ _____

2 Pick a Percentage:

Are you new to the idea of pledged giving? Try using the national giving average of about 3% as a starting point. You can find out what this amount would be, based on your income, by using this chart. Or, if you have been giving a while, take last year's percentage and try adding 1% to it. % _____

If my income is		My monthly giving would be							
Yearly	Monthly	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$ 20,000	\$ 1,667	\$ 50	\$ 67	\$ 83	\$ 100	\$ 117	\$ 133	\$ 150	\$ 167
\$ 30,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 75	\$ 100	\$ 125	\$ 150	\$ 175	\$ 200	\$ 225	\$ 250
\$ 40,000	\$ 3,333	\$ 100	\$ 133	\$ 167	\$ 200	\$ 233	\$ 267	\$ 300	\$ 333
\$ 50,000	\$ 4,167	\$ 125	\$ 167	\$ 208	\$ 250	\$ 292	\$ 333	\$ 375	\$ 417
\$ 60,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 350	\$ 400	\$ 450	\$ 500
\$ 70,000	\$ 5,833	\$ 175	\$ 233	\$ 292	\$ 350	\$ 408	\$ 467	\$ 525	\$ 583
\$ 80,000	\$ 6,667	\$ 200	\$ 267	\$ 333	\$ 400	\$ 467	\$ 533	\$ 600	\$ 667
\$ 90,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 225	\$ 300	\$ 375	\$ 450	\$ 525	\$ 600	\$ 675	\$ 750
\$ 100,000	\$ 8,333	\$ 250	\$ 333	\$ 417	\$ 500	\$ 583	\$ 667	\$ 750	\$ 833
\$ 110,000	\$ 9,167	\$ 275	\$ 367	\$ 458	\$ 550	\$ 642	\$ 733	\$ 825	\$ 917
\$ 120,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 300	\$ 400	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 700	\$ 800	\$ 900	\$ 1,000
\$ 130,000	\$ 10,833	\$ 325	\$ 433	\$ 542	\$ 650	\$ 758	\$ 867	\$ 975	\$ 1,083
\$ 140,000	\$ 11,667	\$ 350	\$ 467	\$ 583	\$ 700	\$ 817	\$ 933	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,167
\$ 150,000	\$ 12,500	\$ 375	\$ 500	\$ 625	\$ 750	\$ 875	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,125	\$ 1,250

3 Calculating Your 2007- 2008 Pledge:

Annual income \$ _____ x giving percentage

% _____ =

\$ _____

Your 2007-2008 pledge

4 Spend time in prayer

How do you feel about this number? Is it in proportion to the importance of God and your spiritual life? Is it in proportion to the importance of MCC Key West in your life? How is it in proportion to the other ways you spend you money?

When you are ready fill in your 2007-2008 pledge amount on your pledge form.

5 Your Time & Talent

Your gift of time is as important as your financial gifts. Consider your passions and your joys. What are the ways you can serve the church that give you joy? Whoever you are and whatever your gifts there is a ministry for you!

When you are ready fill in your 2007-2008 your time and talent pledge on your pledge form.

Pledging at MCC Frequently Asked Questions



What is a pledge?

A pledge is an 12 month identified financial gift that you make to the church over time.

I give to the church on a regular basis. Why do I need to register a pledge?

A pledge from you allows the congregation, the board, and the pastor to plan for the coming year. Many of us travel through the year, and many who connect with MCC Key West do so on a seasonal basis. But our ministry continues twelve months of the year. Your pledge allows us to plan our ministry plan for the coming year.

How are gifts applied toward my pledge?

Once you register your annual pledge with MCC, all non-designated gifts will be automatically applied toward your pledge. Many choose to set up a regular credit card payments. If you give by cash be sure to put your cash in a marked envelope with your name. If you give by check indicate 'pledge' in the check memo line.

What if I need to change my pledge?

Pledges can be adjusted at any time by contacting the Treasurer or any member of the Stewardship committee. We know that circumstances will change for many of us through the coming year. Your pledge should be your best estimate of your giving in the coming year.

I am not a member of the church. Should I consider pledging?

Yes! All members and friends of MCC should consider a pledge to the church to ensure our financial stability. All of us are responsible for our church and its operation. In MCC we are not funded through a diocese, regional office, or denomination. Our church is owned and sustained by our us!. We are need your regular financial support to keep our ministry alive and growing.

How are pledged funds used? How do I have input?

In the fall of every year, the Board of Directors begins the budget planning process based on the success of our annual pledging campaign, projected income, and expenses. The Board then drafts a budget and presents the proposal to the congregation for review, feedback, and approval. Everyone in the congregation has input into the process of determining our ministry decisions for the coming year. You have input through participation in the congregational meeting, election of members and officers to the Board of Directors, and participation in the planning process. All MCC financial reports are public information and are available for your review and feedback. Quarterly financial statements will be prepared by the finance team for distribution to our friends and members.

How can I track my pledged giving through the year?

Every quarter you will receive a thank you letter and giving statement reflecting your giving for that period. Its a convenient way to track your pledge, and financial giving through the year. In January every donor will receive a year end contribution statement. MCC is a non profit 501 3 c organization. All gifts are tax detectable.

I travel frequently or I'm a seasonal member. Is my pledge important?

Yes! Your pledge is a vital part of our community's financial planning. Many of our seasonal members are generous pledges and use the convenience of credit card giving. Your pledge allows us to keep the ministries of MCC Key West strong and vibrant 12 months of the year.



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