

## **Elder Appointee Rev. Tony Freeman**

Hi – It's an honor and a pleasure to spend this time together with you—and I want to take a moment and thank you for BE-ing MCC!

A little background about me: 1) I first attended MCC in Key West, Florida and it was also the church where I served as student clergy. On August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I will be celebrating 20 years as clergy in MCC. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in all of the different size churches (family, pastoral, program, and corporate) as worship coordinator, interim pastor, executive pastor, senior pastor and consulting pastor. My work with the denomination includes presenting over 20 workshops and seminars at conferences; and working with churches in the Philippines, New Zealand, Australia, Europe, Canada and Mexico. I've served as a member and chair of the SGI (Strategic Growth Initiative), chair of the Structure Review Team, and member and the 1<sup>st</sup> vice-chair of the Governing Board. I currently serve as the Director of Church Life and Health and as a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

I feel incredibly honored and blessed to have been able to spend the last 20 years doing what I love. This has been the most fulfilling and rewarding time of my life. I thank God for the many people in MCC that have served as my mentors, guides, and teachers. I would not be here without them and I will always be grateful for the gifts and grace they shared with me.

My hope and prayer is to live up to the calling to be an Elder in MCC; to continue to grow and serve MCC as a servant-leader; providing encouragement, support, and prayer for the people of MCC and the communities we serve. Always putting our relationship with God and one another at the forefront of all I do and say. I pray my gifts of compassion, leadership and learning will be a blessing to MCC. Thank you for this incredible honor and opportunity to serve as an Elder.

May God bless you and keep you, always.