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FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY -- LOCAL CHURCH RESOURCE:

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The article below is a wonderful way to share some of MCC's history with your church and to invite your congregation to participate in your Fellowship Sunday Offering.

You are free to add, delete or edit this article, either for content or length.

You are free to print this article in your church newsletter or weekly worship folder, and/or to post on your church website.

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1. Cut and paste the text below into your software.
2. Edit as needed for content or length.
3. Remove the brackets in the third from final paragraph and insert your church's information.

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**MCC Denomination Celebrates  
43rd Anniversary of Founding During October  
*Fellowship Sunday Offering Provides Opportunity to Invest in MCC's Future***

Sunlight bathed the Southern California skyline in a warm glow on Sunday morning, October 6, 1968, as twelve worshippers made their way across the city of Los Angeles to the tree-lined suburb of Huntington Park to take part in the very first MCC worship service, held in the living room of Rev. Troy Perry.

It was a different time.

Stonewall had not yet taken place. There were no legal protections for gays and lesbians. Police regularly entered gay bars and arrested patrons on trumped up charges, which often led to loss of employment, loss of housing and ostracism by families. National and international gay rights organizations did not yet exist. There were no Pride Marches and no gay youth centers. Psychiatry called us sick. Churches called us sinful.

It wasn't an easy time to be gay, or lesbian, or bisexual, or transgender.

Yet a defrocked Pentecostal preacher named Troy Perry not only dared to believe that God loved us just as we are and had created us as we are, he even dared to publish his home address (a risky step in those times) in a fledgling LGBT publication called The Advocate and invited the public

into his living room to worship God at the very first service of Metropolitan Community Church on that October morning in 1968.

Twelve people answered that advertisement. Twelve people bravely made their way across Los Angeles to the little bungalow located on Miles Avenue. And twelve people worshipped God, openly and authentically, just as God had created them.

MCC was born!

And like a healthy newborn, MCC grew!

The 12 worshipers quickly turned into 20. And then 50. And they passed the 100 mark, and the 200 mark. And the 500 mark.

Within two years, 1000 people -- predominantly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender -- were worshipping each week at MCC of Los Angeles and other cities were asking how they could start their own MCC congregations.

Today, 43 year later, MCC has grown into a worldwide denomination with churches and ministries touching 40 countries!

Each October, MCC churches pause to remember our past -- and to look to our future. Right now, MCC is at a crossroads. According to Rev. Dr. Nancy Wilson, moderator of MCC, "Today, we're engaging the vital question of what structures and systems will best support MCC's growing and emerging international ministries for the coming decades. MCC's International Task Force is hard at work preparing proposals for the Governing Board of our denomination to present at the next General Conference."

We have two God-given opportunities as we observe the 43 anniversary of MCC's founding -- to celebrate God's blessing in the past and to invest in creating a bold future for the international MCC movement.

On [insert date of your offering], we'll receive a special, separate, voluntary Fellowship Sunday Offering. Our gifts will be combined with those of our sister churches around the world and invested in the important work of MCC's International Task Force.

Throughout October, we invite you to offer prayers of thanks for Rev. Troy Perry, and for all who took a stand and blazed a trail for us to follow. We invite you to offer prayers for God's blessing and leading for MCC's future. And we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special, voluntary, over-and-above financial gift to our Fellowship Sunday Offering as an investment in MCC's future ministry.

To learn more about MCC's Fellowship Sunday observances, our movement's history and our denomination's plans for the future, visit [www.MCCchurch.org](http://www.MCCchurch.org).