

During his tenure as District Coordinator, David opened the first public office for a district in Sacramento, California.

At the end of 1987, he received and accepted a call as a worker-priest on the Island of Maui, Hawaii. He served this rural parish for nine years and worked during his final year in Hawaii as the Director of Music for St. John's Episcopal Church in Kula. At the end of 1996, David received and accepted a call from the Southwest District to begin a new church in the Coachella Valley, arriving on the mainland in February of 1997.

As a worker-priest, David's secular employment included the hospitality industry, a graphic artist, a bartender/waiter, production manager of a small factory and the director of staff development/senior case manager for a homeless resource center. David is a certified instructor for the Parent Effectiveness Training program of Thomas Gordon and Associates as well as a certified instructor for the Managing Aggressive Behavior program of the University of Oklahoma. Pastor David and his life partner, Mr. Jim Potter, make their home in Palm Springs, California and share their life with three furry friends, Angel, Princess and Jessica.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Coachella Valley

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Worship Every Sunday 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

(Songs for Gathering begins at 9:45 a.m.)

The Rev. David M. Pelletier, pastor

Serving the Greater Palm Springs, California Area since 1997



MCC[®]

METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF THE COACHELLA VALLEY

Metropolitan Community Church of the Coachella Valley (MCCCV), founded, March 2, 1997 is a member congregation of the Metropolitan Community Churches. Twenty people attended our first worship service which was held at the Celebration Playhouse, Arenas Road in Palm Springs. Since that first service, our congregation continues to grow in the scope of its mission, ministry, enthusiasm and numbers. Currently (July 2004), our congregation is made up of over 150 members and friends. The name of our church was selected in order to reflect the geographic area which we serve (Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Palm Desert, La Quinta, Rancho Mirage, Indio as well as other communities throughout the Valley and the surrounding area including Banning, Beaumont, Moreno Valley, etc.)

The Church's program focuses on three primary areas: worship/spiritual development, Christian education, and evangelism/outreach. These facets of our ministry continue to build a strong foundation for many varied activities and events. In addition to regular Sunday worship other weekly activities include Choir practice and Bible study. In addition we have (or in the process of) established ministries for singles, women, congregational care, deacons and our board of Lay Ministry. Our congregation elects a Board of Directors at our annual meeting (usually in April of every year) that conducts the business aspects of our church and its ministries.

From the very beginning, our congregation demonstrated a major commitment to those in need providing assistance in various forms. Our first non-sectarian service project was the Food Closet which has been taken over by the Desert AIDS Project and is now called the Food Depot. Another non-sectarian service project our congregation founded is the Jeffery Sandholm Memorial Community Crisis Line which is now its own non-profit service organization as well. Currently, MCCCCV is a partner of the Well in the Desert, Palm Springs homeless feeding and service program.

Christian service continues to permeate the planning and implementation of many of our programs. As a community of faith we encourage our membership and friends to discover their own ministries throughout the community. You will find MCC folks at the Desert AIDS Project, the lay hospital chaplain programs of Desert Regional and Eisenhower as well as other service groups throughout the community. This commitment is demonstrated in what we do with the money that is received for our general fund. Of every dollar that is donated, fifteen cents is given to our denomination for the further grow and expansion of Metropolitan Community Churches world-wide. Our congregation is a member of the Desert Business Association and directly supports the Desert Rainbow Foundation, Working Wonders (a women's HIV/AIDS non-profit), Palm Springs PRIDE as well as other community groups.

What does the future hold for MCCCCV? We can say with complete confidence that the God who called us together as a community of faith, sustains us always. We are learning to be faithful to what God has called us and know that we will continue to grow and prosper. We need not be concerned with outcomes when we remain in this moment of grace. As we grow together, we know that a sense of belonging, intimacy and Christian fellowship will also flourish. The only thing that limits us is our own willingness and creativity to respond to this wonderful good news of God's love.

All of what MCCCCV is and hopes to be, we offer in the Name of Jesus, our risen and living Lord! It is in Christ that we find our center, our hope and the power to fulfill the promise to life live abundantly with each other and with a loving God who will guide and direct our ways.

About our Pastor...David Michael Pelletier...

David was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1952 where he was raised by his mother, Anna Pelletier and his two aunts, Mary Guindon and Kathy Spada. Baptized at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), he continued to grow in faith and the church and entered preparation for the professional ministry upon completion of high school in 1970. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech and Communication from Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1974. He entered Christ Seminary-Seminex in St. Louis, Missouri and served a vicarage (internship) at the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas.

While in San Antonio, he came to accept himself as a gay man and God's child and was instrumental in founding the Metropolitan Community Church of San Antonio. In 1977, he returned to the seminary to complete his studies as the first openly gay man to graduate from a Lutheran seminary in the United States, receiving his Master of Divinity degree in 1978. He was licensed that same year into the ministry of MCC and served as the interim pastor of MCC St. Louis, Missouri before receiving his first call as pastor of the MCC of the Willamette Valley (Eugene, Oregon.) While in Oregon, David founded churches in Corvallis and Roseburg, Oregon and for a time served all three churches simultaneously.

In 1983, David was elected as the District Coordinator (Bishop) of the Northwest District for the Metropolitan Community Churches. The scope of his responsibilities included over 30 churches and 50 clergy in an eight state area.