

The Big Easy MCC

Since the church began actively pursuing rebirth and revival in November 2007, we have been deepening many things – our love for one another, our faith in God, our trust in God, our understanding of our faith journey and especially the strength of our outreach to others. In November 2007 when Pastor Clinton began his ministry with us our church had 11 members - a small but determined and faithful group. By early spring 2009 our church is averaging 60-70 in worship on a Sunday and is looking forward to welcoming our 54th new member!

One thing we have repeated again and again to the people of New Orleans, and to ourselves, is a promise that visitors and members of our church will be ‘celebrated and not just tolerated’. We are fully aware that New Orleans has many LGBT people - and straight people of conscience, who weekly sit in churches that devalue them and their relationships, preach spiritual violence against them and their lives, and yet eagerly take their time, talents and financial resources. We believe that this is not good enough. We believe that we are called to preach wholeness and healing to ALL people, with a special outreach to the LGBT community in which we were founded.

- We believe that The Bible is at the heart of our Christian belief, and that it calls us into a real conversation with God – it is not a glorified time capsule, but a living document that must be relevant for each of us.
- The Big Easy MCC must be first and foremost a place of safety – our members sign a membership covenant and a communication policy that strives to ensure the dignity of all people will be respected.
- We believe that people should bring their whole selves to church – we are not there to be repressed, but to be transformed. Leaving bits of ourselves in bars, bad relationships and bathhouses leaves closed doors to God. We are whole people – the bits we like and the bits we don’t – God can use and transfigure all our traits and all our experiences. We have nothing that has no value.
- We believe that growth and change are a dynamic process, prospered by God, which involves the mind opening as well as the heart and soul. We encourage free and incisive thought and enquiry.
- Christianity does not need to be diluted to allow for full inclusion of all peoples, this is the rich core of Christian belief!
- Our faith journey lies at the heart of all we do; it is not a lifestyle enhancement or a spiritual accessory.

Since we have started growing together these principles have been at the heart of all we have done, and remain at the heart of all we seek to do.

Our mission statement:

To be a powerful force for the transformation of lives through Jesus Christ; bringing people in to God's presence through creative and thoughtful outreach, nurturing their gifts and discipleship in all their diversity, and empowering them to minister to others.

What does this mean?

Bring them in: Through outreach and being willing to leave our 'place of comfort' we seek to meet people where they are on a basis of equality – incorporating them, their talents and diverse gifts into our worship community and leadership. We believe that people are not only born equal, but remain equal. We seek to bring the Good News of Christ's redeeming and universal love to all we encounter and model that love as the body of Christ on earth.

Build them up: Christian discipleship and growth are at the heart of our mission. Through education, inspiration and the stated aim of each of our members to 'prosper each others relationship with God' we aim to build strong, loving Christians, able to effect change in the world. We seek at all times to be open to God's call upon us.

Send them out: Ultimately we are not called to settle into spiritual comfort zones, but to do justice in this world. We intend for The Big Easy MCC to be an engine of truth and justice, in real and tangible terms, not only in New Orleans but throughout the world in prayer, outreach and effective ministries.

As a member of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches we are a Christian church that has a statement of faith linked to the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. However, neither Pastor Clinton nor the leadership of the Big Easy MCC sees value in forcing doctrinal issues and firstly seeks to encourage a personal journey of spiritual discovery and revelation in partnership with our church. You do not need to sign up to a belief statement in order to worship with us! We trust in God and trust in the intelligence and sincerity of those we worship with, and count as members.