



King of Peace MCC

Pastoral Search Packet



Our congregation is happy you're considering us as part of your spiritual and vocational journey. We're excited about what the future holds!



Our Mission is Sharing our inclusive faith community and living out the message of Christ's love by advocating for justice and equality.

Our Vision is To be a place where faith and real life intersect for healing, hope, and service through God's love.

We seek a full-time Senior Pastor for our congregation of 168 members plus friends. If, after reviewing this packet, you feel called, we invite you to apply.

Thank you!



Included in this packet

Who we are

- Overview and By-the-Numbers
- Current Staff, Core Values, and Lay Involvement
- A Brief History

What we're looking for

- Roles & Responsibilities and Qualifications

Where we are

- Pinellas Park, St. Petersburg and the surrounding areas
- LGBTQ+ and Things to do

Finally, an Invitation to Apply





King of Peace

Overview

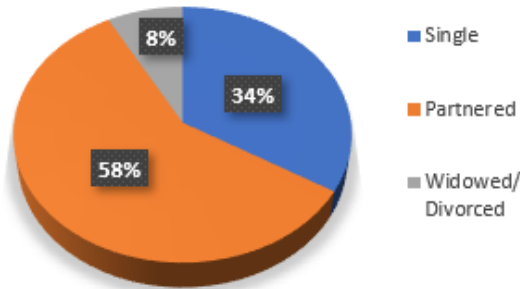
- We are faithful in our tithe to UFMCC
- We are current on our Pension Fund with UFMCC
- 2023 Annual Budget of \$387,000 approved at Congregational Meeting
- For King of Peace by the numbers, we surveyed 168 active members, and received 79 responses – or 47%
 - 70% have been associated with King of Peace for more than 15 years
 - 73% attend service weekly and 24% attend regularly
 - We average about 90 In-Person and 24 Facebook Live attendees and another 215 On-line views of services



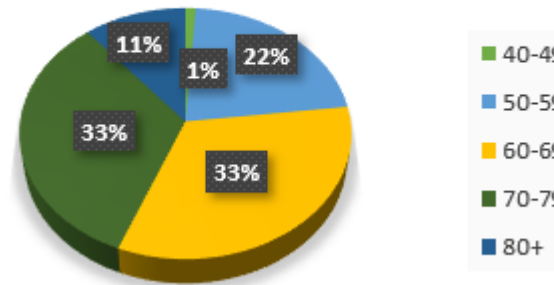
King of Peace

By-the-Numbers

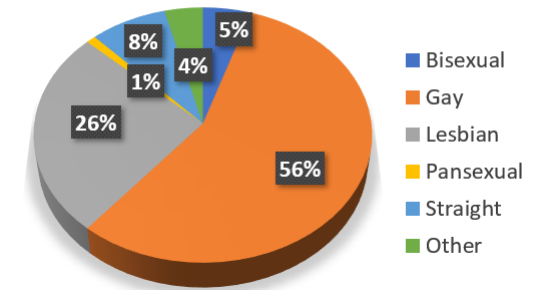
Relationship Status



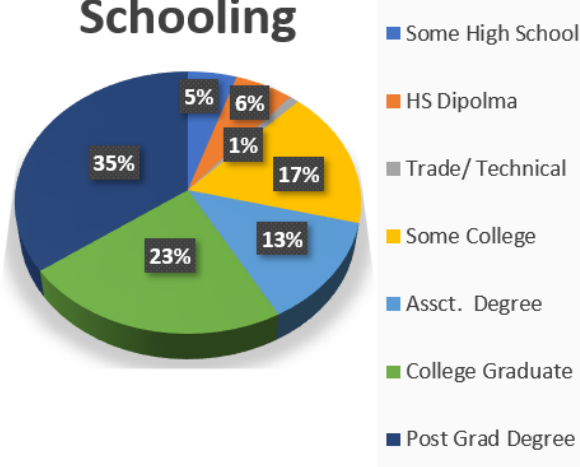
Age Range



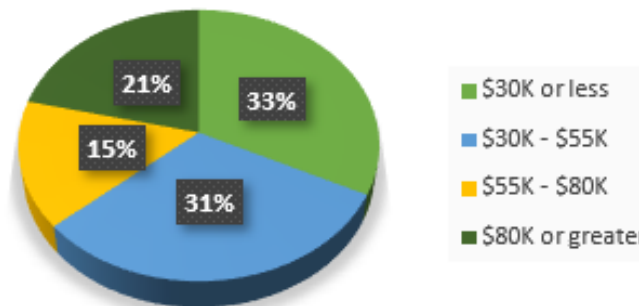
Sexual Identity



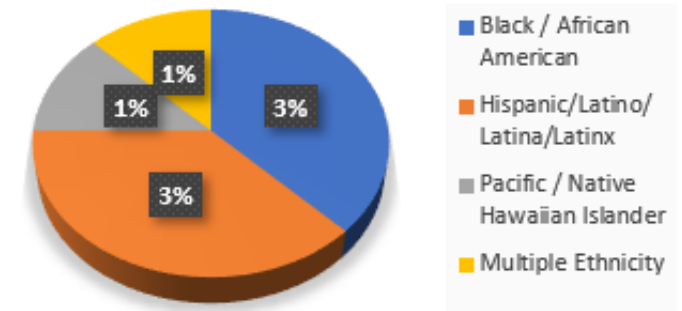
Schooling



Individual Income



Ethnicity



White / Caucasian 88%

Gender Identity

47% Female, 49% Male, 1% Non-Binary, 1% Transgender Female, 1% Other



Current Staff | Core Values | Lay Involvement

Paid Staff

FT Interim Pastor

1 PT Associate Pastor

- Director of Congregational Care

2 FT Staff

- Director of Music & Communications
- Director of Administration

Excellence in Ministry

To use every skill and tool available to be the source of dynamic, spirit-filled ministries for the community.

Spiritual/Personal Growth

Building and maintaining a loving spiritual environment so each person may develop and grow in mind, body, and spirit.

Inclusion

Striving to be conduits of faith where everyone is included in the family of God and where all parts of our being are welcome at God's table.

Community

We are committed to equipping ourselves and each other to do the work of proclaiming Christ's message of love, acceptance and healing for all.

Board of Directors

Lay Delegates

Ministries:

- Congregational Care
- Fundraising
- Greeters & Hospitality
- Music Ministry
- Multimedia/Tech Team
- Outreach & Social Justice
- Pride Team
- Transgender Ministry
- Ushers
- Visual Arts Programming
- Worship
- ASL Interpretation



King Of Peace

A Brief History

Founded in 1975 as a mission of Tampa MCC, King of Peace MCC has been on the move ever since. We have had sanctuary in living rooms, a store front, our own 'Little Yellow House', a former Funeral Home, a former Eagles Club, a former Cinema, and shared church spaces. In each, we spread the word and shared fellowship. Funded through garage sales and donations, the congregation pitched in with imagination and perspiration to transform each of these "former" spaces into our Church Alive.



The spaces were alive with Sunday Worship – sometimes twice! Thursday Dinners and monthly Saturday Theme Parties, Groups for Singles, Women, Therapy, Happy Cookers, Choir, Trans, AIDS, Ubuntu, Gay Parents and an active Bookstore.

We brought in the Miami Gay Men's Choir, and, out of that concert, the well-loved Gay Men's Chorus of Tampa Bay was established. We set a mission in New Port Richey with Spirit of Life MCC, in the Dominican Republic for an orphanage & school and a new MCC Church in Cuba: SOMOS ICM.

From SDIA (turning AIDS around), an outreach with counseling, dinners, a buddy program and two homes operating to accept patients released from hospital care, was born what has grown into Metro Inclusive Health – now identified as the 2nd largest LGBTQ+ focused health and community center in the US.



King Of Peace

A Brief History

We continued, pressing forward with a focus on leadership, spiritual & personal development and caring. Creating our H.O.T. (Human Outreach Team) ministry for the distribution of food and support to the unhoused. Fundraising events raising over 100 thousand dollars to support various community programs over the years. Transgender Community events to honor and remember as well as name alignment baptisms. Congregational Enrichment classes in bible studies, finance, health, movies, legal issues, Servant Leadership and Creating a Life that Matters.



Our Higher Tech multimedia team - already leveraging Facebook Live with multiple cameras, and effective use of lighting and online giving - was well positioned to transition to the constraints of COVID and the post-COVID landscape.

We have a long history of member and clergy involvement at the denomination level, including clergy on the Board of Elders and members on the Governing Board, Board of Pensions, Assessments, Finance Team and Conference Planning Committee.



King Of Peace

A Brief History

Embracing God's Will, we bid farewell to an Associate Pastor and a retiring Senior Pastor and welcomed our Interim Pastor. Further, while we did not understand, it was evident our church home - the former cinema - no longer served God's purpose for King of Peace and the building was sold. We were able to sell at a good profit and were honored to share the beautiful sanctuary and property of Lakewood United Methodist Church.

Our congregation prayed together weekly as we searched for the space which serves God's plan for King of Peace Church Alive of the future and we are now purchasing Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church! They are a church whose ideals align with us and who are very active in serving the community, especially with their food pantry, which makes us very excited that part of God's plan for us includes being placed in a position to share space with Good Samaritan after the sale. We look forward to how our congregations can build a relationship as neighbors to each other and Pinellas County!





Senior Pastor

Role & Responsibilities

Worship

- Planning and preaching
- Designing order, choosing themes, scriptures, and music
- Equipping and empowering participants, and the laity
- Work with existing staff, musicians, and teams
- Deepen connection for virtual attendees
- Strengthen online presence

Programs & Outreach

- Bible studies and educational/spiritual development
- Fellowship opportunities
- Laity development
- Conflict management
- Community presence and attending events
- Enhance connection with denomination

Congregational/Pastoral Care

- Utilize team and Assoc. Pastor to address the spiritual needs of the congregation.
- Wedding, funerals, sick & shut-ins, hospital/home visits, communion, calls.

Administration/Operations

- Moderate Board of Directors
- Coordinate training and enrichment opportunities
- Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures
 - Review and update as needed
- Supervise staff
- With Administrator and staff oversee building operations and maintaining space.
- Finance, stewardship and fundraising



Senior Pastor

Qualifications

- At least 3 years of clergy experience, previous Senior Pastor a plus
- Prefer currently licensed and ordained as MCC Clergy
- Proven oral and written communication skills
- Experience supervising multiple staff members
- Master's degree from A.T.S. accredited seminary or divinity school preferred.



Pinellas Park

Our weekly prayer during our search: *'Guide us by Your Spirit to our next place of ministry, where we can have the most influence for You.'*

Begun as sugar cane farms, situated about halfway between downtown St. Pete and downtown Clearwater with Tampa just across the bridge, Pinellas Park is the home of our new church building.

According to the King of Peace history, over the years we have been homed from Clearwater to Southern Pinellas Point. It seems fitting that our new space places us right in the middle of it all!

A blend of residential and industrial areas with hidden gems from verdant parks to vibrant art and small restaurants loved by locals. Its centrality positions us to be a viable place of worship for everyone in the area!





St. Petersburg

- *5th largest city by population in Florida, called the ‘Sunshine City’ of the ‘Sunshine State’!*
- *Average daily high in the hot season is 85 and 73 in the cold season.*
- *With only about 5 non-sunny days a year, rain is just liquid sunshine.*

City of the ARTS: the Dali, Chihuly, James Western & Wildlife Art, Fine Art, American Arts & Crafts museums and a vibrant artist community.

Theatres: American Stage, St Petersburg Opera, The Florida Orchestra, Mahaffey, freeFall Theatre, Palladium

Historic: Vinoy Hotel, Don Cesar Resort, Holocaust Museum, Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum, Historic Kenwood Neighborhood – 2020 named Best Neighborhood in the U.S., also an Artist Enclave

We are home to the Clearwater St. Pete International Airport and only 20 miles from Tampa International Airport to easily go visit the snow – somewhere else



Some Stats:

- Median Age 43
- Median income - \$55, 000
- Median home value - \$154,000

Age Range

- 36% Older Adults
- 23% Young Adults
- 18% Children
- 17% Seniors
- 5% College Age

Racial makeup

- 62% White
- 23% Black
- 7% Hispanic
- 3% Asian
- 5% Other





Surrounding Areas

You can cross the state in a few hours to visit the oldest city, St. Augustine, or watch the sun rise on the east coast beaches like Daytona or Cocoa. And, not to be forgotten, Mickey and all the attractions of Central Florida!

Check out [My News 13 Florida on a Tankful](#)

In the immediate area:

- **Gulfport** is the oldest township in Pinellas County.
Their motto... 'Keep Gulfport Weird'
- **Clearwater** is Pinellas County Seat.
- **Tampa**, in addition to a metropolis, holds historic Ybor City with its Latin Quarter and a piece of Cuba.
- **Dunedin** is a charming popular day trip with eclectic shops and restaurants.
- Get away to **Honeymoon Island** or **Caladesi Island** for a beautiful visit.
- **Tarpon Springs** home of the Sponge Docks and a Greek Village full of shops and eateries.





Out and Proud

St Pete Pride is Florida's largest, with the last count coming in at an estimated 300,000 for our downtown waterfront event.

Consistently a top city for LGBTQ+ people, last voted at #3!

Scored 100 on the HRC Municipal Equality Index for the last 9 years.

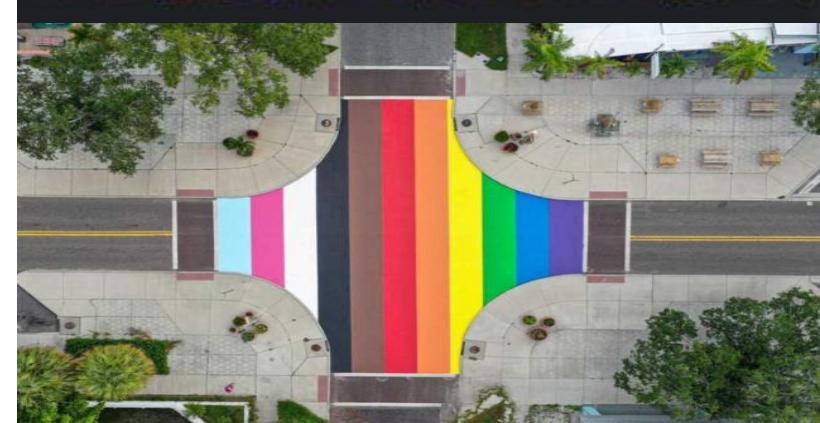
Two LGBTQ+ Liaisons, one for the city and one for the police.

Our LGBTQ Film Festival is the longest running Film Festival in FL.

Transgender Day of Remembrance parade and city celebration.



Metro Inclusive Health, born from King of Peace SDIA ministry, is the 2nd largest LGBTQ+ focused healthcare provider in the nation.





Things to do

Twenty-five miles of soft white sand - 3 of our **beaches** have been named the most beautiful in the US!

Three protected **Wetlands** to explore: Sawgrass Lake Park, Cliff Stephens Park & Canal Park, and Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal.

Ft De Soto Park is 1,100 acres of outdoor activity from fishing, boat ramps, nature trails, and kayak rentals to dog parks, camping, ball fields, and a historic Spanish American War Fort to explore.

Egmont Key State Park wildlife refuge accessible only by boat. A natural and cultural history on the edge of the Gulf of Mexico with connections in history to the Seminole War, Civil War and Spanish-American war including an 1858 lighthouse.





Things to do

Sunken Gardens Over 100 years old, St Pete's oldest living museum, with 4 acres of Botanical Gardens waterfalls, a flock of flamingos and more than 50K plants and flowers.

St Pete Pier re-envisioned and re-opened in 2020 with 26 acres of swimming, fishing, picnic areas, restaurants, a museum, parks, playgrounds, live entertainment and outdoor concert spaces. Plus, all the shopping and restaurants on Beach Drive!

Sports: *baseball* - The Rays and Yankees (spring training), *soccer* - Rowdies, *football* - Buccaneers and *hockey* - The Lightning.

LGBTQ+ Sports Groups: Frontrunners, Pride Bowling, Suncoast Softball, Advantage Tampa Bay Tennis, Rainbow Sports League, Kickball





Invitation To Apply

We're proud to introduce [King Of Peace](#) and our community! We are in a unique time, in history and for our church, and we know it is full of opportunity.

If you feel you are a fit for us, please submit your information to pastoralsearch@churchstpetersburg.org including:

- Your Statement of Faith (5 pages or less)
- Sermon recording links – at least two, with written transcripts if available
- Resume – including at least 5 professional and 5 personal references
- A short brief on the questions included (see next slide)

Please indicate if you are licensed UFMCC clergy or if are you eligible for licensure.

For more information, visit:

[Office of Formation and Leadership Development \(mccchurch.org\)](http://mccchurch.org)

PLEASE NOTE

The top candidate(s) will be REQUIRED to complete a due diligence application to include both criminal background and credit checks extending back at least five years.





Give us a few thoughts on

1. Your community engagement and outreach.
 - Any community organizations, social justice work and impact you've seen, leadership roles, etc.
2. Your fundraising and stewardship philosophy and experiences.
3. Your last church.
 - Something you're especially proud of.
 - Something you wish you would have done differently.
4. How do you allocate your time as a full-time pastor?
 - What takes priority?
5. What goals do you have?
 - Also, any previous plans you have set and accomplished (or not) and why.
6. Tell us how you handled a conflict between two people in the church?
 - Between yourself and someone in the church?
7. What are some of the most important ideas and practices that you think cultivate health and growth in a local church?

