

## **Sunshine Cathedral 101**

Sunshine Cathedral is affiliated with both the International Council of Community Churches (ICCC, or "ITripleC") and Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC).

The **ICCC** (ITripleC) is an association of autonomous congregations and independent movements. The ITripleC includes progressive, evangelical, and liturgical parishes and is a member of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches and is historically committed to racial diversity and social justice. The ICCC was formed in 1950 as the result of a merger of two organizations in the community church movement.

**MCC** was founded in 1968 by Troy D. Perry, a minister from the Pentecostal tradition who felt called to start a church that would welcome and affirm the LGBT children of God.

### *Sunshine Cathedral Sacraments: Holy Communion & Baptism*

Holy Communion is ritual feast symbolizing our unity with all life and with the Source of all life (open to everyone, regardless of religious affiliation, church membership, or personal belief; Holy Communion is celebrated at most worship services). Baptism is being immersed into the life of the spiritual community and can be celebrated with a water ritual.

### *Sunshine Cathedral Sacramental Rites:*

Rite of Anointing (for praying for the sick or acts of consecration), Rite of Blessing (any ceremony intended to confer a blessing on a person, home, object, pet, or endeavor), Celebration of Life (funeral or memorial service), Collection of Offerings (sometimes called "the Sacrament of Sharing" or "building a culture of generosity"), Rite of Confirmation (attaining membership), Rite of Matrimony (wedding), and Rite of Ordination

### *Sunshine Cathedral Beliefs:*

We have no formal creed but as Christians, Jesus is our primary faith symbol/example and we seek to understand the message and mission of Jesus by careful and open-minded study of the scriptures. Our worshiping community is open to those who do as well as those who do not primarily identify as Christian, and still, our roots are in the progressive Christian movements; and, the message and ritual of our church are inspired by the progressive Christian witness.

- ✓ We teach the omnipresence of divine Life ("God") and the sacred value of all people.
- ✓ We affirm that peace and social justice are spiritual goals.
- ✓ We have found that optimism, gratitude, and generosity are spiritual tools that enrich and empower one's life.
- ✓ We encourage prayer, positive thinking, and faithful worship.
- ✓ We present a social gospel, that is, we find in the teachings of Jesus a call to affirm the dignity of all people, to be mindful of those who have been marginalized in society, to model inclusivity, and to care for the most vulnerable among us – this gospel call to justice for all includes an intentional affirmation and celebration of the LGBT community.

Our presentation of the Christian message is compatible with the **8 Points of Progressive Christianity** ([ProgressiveChristianity.org](http://ProgressiveChristianity.org)): [Progressive Christians] (1) Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred; (2) Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey; (3) Seek community that is inclusive of all people, including but not limited to conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, believers and agnostics, women and men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, and those of all classes and abilities; (4) Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe; (5) Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes; (6) Strive for peace and justice among all people; (7) Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth; (8) Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.