



Reverend Lorilyn (Candy) Holmes

Rev. Candy Holmes brings to MCC rich perspectives and insights stemming from her spiritually diverse and musical life experience. From her Baptist, Pentecostal, and Interfaith background, she has honed gifts and skills of musical direction, healing, preaching, diversity work, event planning, and program administration. In addition, Candy has been a leader in weaving these same abilities with social justice and ecumenical endeavors in the local community and nationally.

While enjoying an information technology management career within the Federal Government with the Government Accountability Office, Rev. Holmes passionately pursues a multi-faceted ministry and has been part of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) for over 21 years. She is both an ordained Interfaith minister (graduate of The New Seminary, New York, NY) and MCC clergy. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Divinity degree (Episcopal School of Divinity).

In light of her role as a Federal employee and someone who is passionately concerned with equality in the work place, in 2009 Rev. Holmes was called upon to witness the signing of a Presidential Memorandum by President Obama that extended limited benefits to same-gender domestic partners of Federal employees. She was also invited to testify before Congress on the merits and need for legislation (Domestic Partners Benefits and Obligations Act 2009) that would extend full benefits to same-gender domestic partners of Federal employees.

Rev. Holmes' passions include ecumenical and diversity work, healing ministry, conference planning, organizing liturgical/worship efforts at local, denominational, and interfaith levels; and serving on the MCC People of African Descent Advisory Council. She has participated in successfully organizing various MCC and ecumenical conferences. Candy serves as a member of the Moderator's Ecumenical/Inter-Religious Team and serves as MCC's Ecumenical Liaison to The Fellowship. One of Candy's passions is participating in the People of African Descent Conference and she has served in varying leadership roles with the Conference for over 10 years. It has been her honor to be the Chair for the MCC People of African Descent Conference (PAD) for two successive sessions.

Rev. Holmes' ministry also includes healing through music. When called upon musically, Candy guest directs, conducts music clinics and assists churches to enhance their music ministries/programs. She has guest conducted choirs for the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Capital Campaign Dinner with President Bill Clinton, the HRC Millennium March Equality Rocks Concert, Janet Reno at the World Aids Day Memorial (U.S. Justice Department), the Mothers Against Drunk Driving International Conference, National Cathedral Concerts, MCC World Jubilees, MCC Regional and mini conferences, MCC People of African Descent Conferences, The Fellowship, and various MCC churches. She has also worked along side such music notables as Chaka Khan, Roberta Flack, George Michael, Randa McNamara, Bishop Yvette Flunder, Bishop Carlton Pearson, Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus; and MCC music notables, such as Rev. Delores Berry, Marsha Stevens, and Jason and deMarco. In light of her wide breadth of skill and abilities, Rev. Holmes has served as Worship Coordinator and Music Director for various MCC conferences and ecumenical events.

Rev. Holmes has been involved with healing as a ministry for most of her adult life. Because of her passion for healing she is frequently called upon to lead healing prayer services, and to discuss healing in a broader perspective and as a way of life.

Regardless of the aspect of ministry, Rev. Candy is engaged, energized, and excited with doing what the Divine has placed within her hands to do. Whether planning a conference event, conducting a workshop, preaching, leading a healing service, or supporting a local church's music ministry; you will find Candy happily working out her mission and motto – *"Be the change you want to see."* She has been a part of MCC since 1987. Candy is a native Washingtonian, currently residing in Laurel, Maryland and is a member of New Covenant, MCC. Her life-partner is the Rev. Darlene Garner.