

## 'By No Other Name'

### UFMCC GENERAL CONFERENCE X A Part or Apart? "Come, and you will see"

M.C.C.R. has been "buzzing" with talk of, and preparation for, hosting General Conference X of U.F.M.C.C. (Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches) August 3 through 9 at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel. As the first of the expected 3000 people started arriving from around the world in July, the Homophile Community (also a part of the preparations) has also become more excited. Curiosity has risen. Questions are being asked. Many people (both members and friends of M.C.C.R., and the larger Homophile Community) wonder "Shall I be A Part or stay Apart? Can I be A Part or must I remain Apart? What's in it for me? Why should I attend? Who can participate? When can I be A Part? How can I get involved?"

It's interesting that Jesus' first words in the 4th Gospel, spoken to the first disciples when they became inquisitive, were also a question, "What do you want?" As the disciples questioned further, Jesus invited, "Come, and you will see."

The invitation of Jesus Christ rings down through the ages and reaches to include ALL people, "Come and you will see." As members of the U.F.M.C.C. Body of Christ gather, the invitation to YOU is "Come, and you will see." You will see how (in the words of our founder, Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry) "The Lord Is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay" has made many A Part who formerly stood Apart.

You will experience the integration of all parts of the Body of Christ; not by individual doctrines, habits, or theology, but by the Holy Spirit. You will delight in the independence of all the parts as each maintains its uniqueness as God's own creation. You will rejoice in the reality of unity in diversity. You will find security in the interdependence of all of the parts. **We need each other.** Cooperation is necessary. Yet it is when each part effectively does its own thing that harmony prevails. Like an orchestra, each has its own unique sound, and each may play a different note, but when these are put together in a performance, the result is harmonious and pleasant. You will realize that each part is indispensable to completeness. Each is important and essential in its own right, not determined by leadership or role, but by acceptance of the invitation of Jesus Christ.

The theme of the Conference is "By No Other Name" (Acts 4:12 "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to us by which we must be saved.")

"What do you want?" You will find loving, caring, and sharing fellowship with God's people. You may participate in a number of workshops and discussions geared to the diversity of the needs and interests of the people. There will be entertainment, movies, a pool party, bar tours, etc. You will observe the inner workings of U.F.M.C.C. in the business meetings. Best of all, you will experience the joy of participation in the worship of OUR God who welcomes, accepts, and loves each of us just as God created us to be. You are welcome at as many, or as few, of the activities as you are able and/or would like to attend. You may come as an observer or as a participant.

Many of us have been Apart (on the outside



continued from Page 1

looking in) too long. Each of us can be A Part of U.F.M.C.C. General Conference X. Each of us can proclaim, with the Apostle Paul, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height no depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38-39)

"Come, and you will see."

Rev. Dee Lamb, Asst. Pastor

## GARAGE SALE

Saturday, August 22nd is the date for M.C.C.R.'s Family Garage Sale.

## Covenant Family

There are many in this world who do not have a family for many reasons. Death, rejection of our lifestyles, separation by moving, or even separation by opposite ideas and opinions. For whatever reason(s), and there are many. A lot of us are feeling, and have felt, at one time, the sting of alienation from our family unit and loved ones.

Destruction of our family for whatever reasons, robs all of us and takes with it the one place we all looked for understanding when the world didn't; compassion and kindness when the people around us were cruel; comfort when we were hurt or sick; love, when all we found was hate.

A family is a wonderful, beautiful thing that a lot of us feel we will never find or experience again. But we seem to forget that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). It can be yours. Understanding, compassion, tenderness, comfort, closeness, companionship, and much much more. All these things can be yours with our Covenant Families.

With our Lord Jesus Christ all of us can give, and find, the Love and support we need, but cannot find very often in our world.

Won't you come join us?

KJC

## "Me Importa"

La gente hispanico de la U.F.M.C.C. (gente de las iglesias en Los Angeles, Tucson, Nuevo York, Miami, Monterrey, N.L., y Ciudad de Mexico, D.F.) tendran una conferencia "distrito" a M.C.C.R. a las mismo tiempo de la Conferencia General del U.F.M.C.C.

Rev. Jose Mojicas, Director de las programas hispanico del U.F.M.C.C., dice, "La junta primera esta en Sabado, 1 de Augusto, con un servicio iglesia en Domingo, 2 de Augusto, a las diez en la mañana, y una junta negocios siguiente. Esta posible hay otras juntas en la semana que siguiente."

Nosotros a M.C.C.R. tenemos un bienvenido amoroso y Tejano para los hermanos y hermanas en Jesus Cristo, que habla Espanol, y para los otros gente en el congregacion y personas en Houston que querran atender.

La tema de la conferencia esta "Me Importa". M.C.C.R. dice, "Nosotros tambien!"

## I Care

The Hispanic people of the Universal Fellowship (Representatives from Los Angeles, Tucson, New York, Miami, Monterrey, N.L., and Mexico City, D.F.) will meet at M.C.C.R. for their first "District" Conference during the U.F.M.C.C. General Conference period.

Rev. Jose Mojicas, Director of the U.F.M.C.C. Hispanic Programs said that their first meeting would be on Saturday, August 1, with a worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 2, followed by a business meeting. Other possible meetings, as needed, will follow during the week.

We at M.C.C.R. extend a loving Texas welcome to these our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, and to others in our congregation and community who will want to attend.

The theme of their conference is "I Care". M.C.C.R.'s answer to that is "So Do We"!

KMc



Dear Members & Friends of MCCR,

The book of Philemon, the shortest of Paul's Epistles, reveals a wonderful expression of Christian love. It contains a tender and moving appeal in behalf of a runaway slave who had stolen money from his master, but who found the Lord Jesus Christ under Paul's ministry. Paul felt for the weakness of people, and no one was too insignificant for him to help. He was a friend to the oppressed. But the runaway found an even greater Friend in Jesus Christ. Paul promised to pay what the slave owed in money, but Jesus Christ had already paid his sin-debt.

Jesus said, "I have called you friends" (John 15:15). He also said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). While there are friends in this world who stick by us, there are many friends who fail us in our personal hours of need. Jesus Christ is a Friend who "sticketh closer than a sister or brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

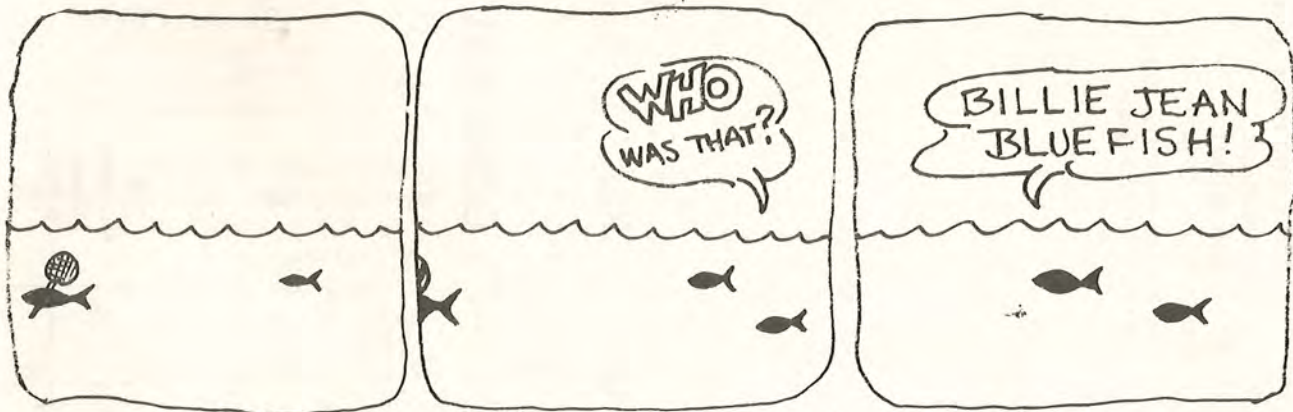
One of the deepest joys of the Christian life is our friendship with Jesus. He is a Friend who enters into all experiences of life with us. When the journey seems hard, Christ's love gives each of us strength. When

disappointments fall upon us three at a time, Jesus comforts us and gives us the push to keep moving forward. So close is this companionship with the Lord Jesus that it is possible to communicate with Him heart to heart. Not just with words that are detected by human ear, but with those impulses of the Spirit that are received within our inner being. Jesus is the eternally faithful Friend of the oppressed.

**As we gather with our sisters and brothers from literally all over the world and celebrate our relationship with Jesus Christ, remember that Jesus Christ will be dwelling in many a brother or sister with whom we will be placed in contact during the hectic days of General Conference here in Houston, August 3 through August 9. And for those of us who remain here in Houston after this General Conference becomes history, Jesus Christ will still be awaiting our show and gift of friendship with those who are new and also in the midst of many people we have known and thought we have known for years. The opportunities for real Christian Friendship never ends!**

**In the love and service of Jesus Christ**

Rev. Chuck Larsen, M.Div., Pastor





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## AUGUST 1981

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship Services 10:45AM Rev. Elder Jean White 7:15PM Rev. Elder Jeri Ann Harvey	3	4	5	6	7	1/8
<b>GENERAL CONFERENCE AUG. 3 THRU 9</b>						
9 Worship Services Shamrock Hilton Morning service 7:15PM MCCR Rev. Elder Archart	10	11 Board Meeting 7:30PM	12 Worship Service 7:15PM	13 Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	14 Gay Jewish Group 8:30PM Women's Exercise Class 7:30PM Covenant Family Meetings 7:30PM	15 All Sessions Membership Classes 1 PM
16 Worship Services 10:45AM & 7:15PM	17	18 Staff Meetings 7:30PM	19 Worship Service 7:15PM	20 Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	21 Women's Exercise Class 7:30PM	22
23 Worship Services 10:45AM & 7:15PM	24 Montrose Singers 8 PM 31	25 Board Meeting 7:30PM	26 Worship Service 7:15PM	27 Choir Rehearsal 7:30PM	28 Women's Exercise Class 7:30PM Gay Jewish Group 8:30PM	29 FIRST TIME AROUND POT LUCK 7:30 PM
30 Worship Services 10:45AM & 7:15PM						

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ UFMCC GENERAL CONFERENCE, Aug. 3-9 Shamrock-Hilton Hotel
- ✓ Sunday AM Service Aug. 9 at Shamrock... Not at our church
- ✓ MEMBERSHIP CLASSES...all in one Sat. Aug 15, 1 PM.
- ✓ Covenant Families Aug. 14, 7:30 PM
- ✓ FIRST TIME AROUND Bring a "first-timer" Sat. Aug 29. Entertainment from Dallas performing.