

**From:** "Jim Birkitt" <JimBirkitt@mccchurch.net>  
**Subject:** Rev. Troy Perry to be Honored by City of Los Angeles  
**Date:** October 24, 2008 4:30:41 AM PDT  
**To:** <info@MCCchurch.net>



Rev. Troy D. Perry

EVENT LOCATION: LA City Hall,  
Council Chambers, 200 N. Spring  
Street, Los Angeles

To Arrange Media Interviews, or for  
Press Photos of Friday's Event,  
Contact:

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Rev. Perry will be available for media  
interviews following the City Council  
presentation.

To arrange phone interviews, call (310)  
625-4177.

Photos of Friday's event available by writing  
to [info@MCCchurch.net](mailto:info@MCCchurch.net).

# NEWS RELEASE

Metropolitan Community Churches

Tearing down walls. Building up hope.

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## Los Angeles City Council To Honor Gay Rights Leader Rev. Troy D. Perry

*Veteran Human Rights Activist Broke Barriers:  
First Openly Gay Member of LA Human  
Relations Commission, Launched Marriage Equality  
Movement, Started MCC International Christian Denomination*

An openly gay LA clergyperson who broke barriers for gays and lesbians will be honored by the Los Angeles City Council on Friday, October 24, 2008 at 10 AM.

Rev. Troy D. Perry, the first openly gay member of the Los Angeles Human Relations Commission and a member of the first delegation of gay leaders invited to the U.S. White House, will be honored for his 40 years of human rights work.

Perry's is a quintessential LA story. A Pentecostal minister rejected by his church because of his sexuality, Perry dreamed of a church that would welcome people like him -- a church where LGBT people of faith would be fully accepted and could worship openly.

He began Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles in the living room of his Huntington Park home on Sunday, October 6, 1968. Twelve worshipers attended the first service.

Under Perry's leadership, the Los Angeles church grew into the world's first Christian denomination with a primary affirming ministry to LGBT people. Today, the Metropolitan Community Churches denomination includes more than 300 churches and groups in 28 countries.

Perry, a plaintiff in this year's California Supreme Court case

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granting full marriage rights to gays and lesbians, is a pioneer of the marriage equality movement. In 1969, he performed the first public same-sex wedding ceremony in the United States and in 1970, filed the first lawsuit seeking legal recognition of same-gender marriages.

Perry was a member of first delegation of gay rights leaders to be invited to the U.S. White House during the Carter Administration and was a guest of President Bill Clinton at a White House breakfast honoring 100 religious leaders for their contributions to American life. He served as an official delegate to the White House Conference on HIV/AIDS and the White House Conference on Hate Crimes.

During Friday's public presentation in City Council Chambers, Perry will be joined by his spouse, Phillip Ray De Blieck, who has also been active in the marriage equality movement.

Now retired as Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, Perry maintains an active international schedule of speaking, lecture, and preaching engagements at universities, seminaries, conferences and churches.

For additional information on Rev. Perry's life and work, the denomination of Metropolitan Community Churches, and MCC's international "Would Jesus Discriminate?" campaign, visit [www.MCCchurch.org](http://www.MCCchurch.org).

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