



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2015

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"LOVE WINS"

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS CELEBRATED BY ORLANDO'S FIRST LGBTQIA-AFFIRMING CHURCH,
JOY METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH (MCC)**

led by senior pastor and gay marriage activist, Reverend Terri Steed Pierce

January 5, 2015 – **On Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 7pm, Joy Metropolitan Community Church (2351 South Ferncreek Ave, Orlando, FL 32806) will perform a series of legally-recognized gay marriages facilitated by the Rev. Terri Steed Pierce. The "Love Wins" gay marriage rally and celebration will also be held at Joy MCC on January 6th in honor of same-sex marriage legalization across the state of Florida.**

The LGBTQIA community and straight allies across the city of Orlando are being welcomed to convene at Joy MCC to support and recognize this historical event. On this day, clerk of the courts in all counties are bound by the United States Constitution to start issuing same-sex marriage licenses.

Rev. Terri Steed Pierce and the church's Director of Worship Arts, Joel Ogburn, are presenting Joy MCC as the premier wedding destination for gay and lesbian couples across Orange County, offering both indoor weddings in the church's sanctuary and outdoor weddings in the church gardens.

Joy MCC is one of the largest churches in the United Fellowship of the Metropolitan Community Church denomination. They have consistently served as a pioneering leader and advocate for gay marriage equality throughout history. Rev. Terri Steed Pierce says, "Joy MCC is a church where people of all races, backgrounds, genders, and sexual orientations are warmly welcomed to participate in Christian worship and spiritual community. We offer a wide variety of ministries for a diverse congregation celebrating God's radically inclusive love."

From Joy MCC's inception, the church has served as a spiritual haven and center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. Rev. Terri Steed Pierce says, "MCC has stood at the forefront of the gay rights movement since 1968 when the denomination was started."

The Rev. Elder Troy D. Perry founded the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles (MCCLA), as a church welcoming LGBT people. He performed the first-ever public same-sex wedding ceremony in the U.S., just two months after founding the church. In 1970, Rev. Elder Troy Perry filed a legal challenge to California's opposite-gender-only marriage laws, garnering national attention to the need for marriage equality.

Rev. Terri Steed Pierce has served as a pastor for MCC churches across the nation for eight years and has served as Joy MCC's senior pastor in Orlando for the past two years, where she fulfills her passion for preaching and leading the church to exponential growth and greater community outreach.

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For interviews with Rev. Terri Steed Pierce on Joy MCC's leading role in performing marriages for LGBT couples across Orlando, contact her at RevTerri@JoyMcc.com or 407.894.1081. She is available for interviews throughout the day on Monday, January 5th and Tuesday, January 6th, prior to the same-sex marriage "Love Wins" rally and celebration at 7pm.