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from the palmetto

by Ed Madden

MCC Columbia concludes Rainbow Candlelight Tribute, appoints new pastor

COLUMBIA — MCC Columbia will conclude its Rainbow Candlelight tribute to the community's heritage and heroes on June 20. The tribute began on May 16 at the SC Pride interfaith service and continues on Sundays through the month of June. All worship services are at 11 a.m. at 1111 Belleview St., just off North Main St., three blocks north of the Elmwood Ave., intersection.

On May 23, the trustees approved the appointment of the Rev. Candace Chellew-Hodge as MCC Columbia's assistant pastor



Candace Chellew-Hodge

on a part-time basis. Chellew-Hodge received her master's degree in December from Candler School of Theology and was ordained by Gentle Spirit Christian Church, both in Atlanta. She is editor and founder of *Whosoever Inc.*, an on-line magazine for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Christians. She and her partner Wanda Chellew-Hodge live in Sumter.

The rite of laying-on of hands celebrating the official beginning of Rev. Candace's new ministry will be celebrated Independence Day, July 4. A reception will follow worship that day. Chellew-Hodge and MCC pastor Rev. Andy Siddens have both been remarkable spokespeople for the SC gay community during the many events GLPM hosted on marriage equality.