

Monthly Potluck & Called Meeting to Consider An Item for Approval

Dear Friends,

After rise of worship this week, there will be a called meeting for the conduct of one item of business. As many of you undoubtedly have heard, there is a movement afoot in the City of Asheville to extend health care benefits to same-gendered partners of City employees. Below is a statement being circulated among various welcoming denominations in Asheville that our clerk has requested that we consider and see if we are led to unite with.

Also, this being fourth Sunday, we will have our monthly Sandwich Sunday potluck. Friends are invited to bring a wholesome homemade dish, but welcome even if all you bring is your appetite. Please be mindful of those among us who have special diets and/or food sensitivities, and label your ingredients. Our table conversations this month will center on "FCNL Priorities". Kitti Reynolds will provide more information when we gather.

Here then is the statement we will be considering during our called meeting for business:

Faith Leaders' Personal Appreciation for
*Asheville City Council's leadership on *
Domestic Partner Benefits for Asheville City Employees
February 4, 2010

We, the leaders of a number of faith communities in Asheville, express our personal appreciation for the leadership and foresight of the Asheville City Council in proposing and moving toward a positive vote for Domestic Partner Benefits for City employees who are in same-gender relationships. As clergy, we are aware that the passage of this measure is significant to many members of our congregations, regardless of sexual orientation.

We conclude that despite varying religious views about homosexuality, a civil society should work toward fairness and equitable compensation for everyone in the community, including public workers. Providing Domestic Partner Benefits for City employees who are in same-gender committed relationships contributes toward this

goal and creates a stronger, family-supporting community, of which we are proud to be a part.