

STEWARDSHIP 2011/2012

MCC Hartford was founded in 1973 to provide a spiritual home for God's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning children here in Connecticut. We share with Metropolitan Community Churches around the world a "bold mission to transform hearts, lives, and history. We are a movement that faithfully proclaims God's inclusive love for all people and proudly bears witness to the holy integration of spirituality and sexuality."

For 38 years the prayers, presence, gifts, and service of our members and friends have supported us. God's generosity has been made real in gracious outpourings of love that fund MCC ministries and in sharing of talents, volunteer labor, gifts in kind of every kind. On our journey we have been sustained by God's providence. We have stepped out in faith again and again, trusting that God who called us out is also calling us home.

At a visit to MCC Hartford, the Rev. Elder Diane Fisher once said, "MCC is not an MOVEMENT with a mission – it is a MISSION with a movement." You are being invited to help fund and support, nurture and encourage a mission of love and acceptance. We ask you to bring the offerings of your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service to the task that God has set before us in 2011/2012.

Spiritual, physical, emotional, and political abuse against gay people, against (perceived and real) sexual and gender difference continues. Too often, churches are complicit or silent in the face of hatred and violence. Queer people around the world, and in central Connecticut, can be thankful that MCC remains an important voice in the celebration of difference and in promoting freedom and equality.

Isaiah reminds us that it is with joy that we draw water from the wells of salvation. Please make a gift of gratitude to God this coming year through the ministries and mission of MCC Hartford. Give thanks for the good gifts God has given you in your sexuality, in your spirituality, in your community, and in this congregation.

The root of joy is gratefulness... It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.

-Brother David Stendl-Rast OSB



A PLEDGE TO SUPPORT OUR GROWING CHURCH

Affirming our Mission Statement, *MCC Hartford exists to offer everyone the opportunity to experience the liberating love of Christ*, I/we make this faith promise to support MCC Hartford in the year 2011/2012 with prayers, presence, gifts, and service.



To this end, and for Spiritual Growth, I/we will keep MCC Hartford in prayer:

Daily Weekly As the Spirit moves



To this end, and for Spiritual Growth, I/we will attend worship at MCC Hartford:

Weekly ____ Sundays per month When I can



To this end, and for Spiritual Growth, I/we will give this amount to ensure that the work of God through the ministries of MCC Hartford is carried out in 2011/2012:

\$_____ per week or \$_____ per month or \$_____ per year



To this end, and for Spiritual Growth, I/we will give of time and talents through MCC Hartford in the following area(s):

- Choir/ Other Music Ministry (please specify) _____
- Publicity/Outreach/Evangelism
- Prayer Chain/Other Prayer Ministry
- Social Justice Ministry (please specify) _____
- Assisting in Worship (please specify) _____
- Working on Hospitality and Fellowship
- Serving on Fundraising Committee
- Representing the Church ecumenically and/or at Conference
- Other (please specify) _____

Name(s):

(Please print)

Address/telephone/email:

Signature(s):