

November 2013

To: Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Candidates:

From: Durango Coalition of Caring Communities (CCC)

This "letter of connection" is intended to describe the long-standing relationship of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango (UUFD) with the Coalition of Caring Communities (CCC) - Durango, Colorado's interfaith/interagency coalition.

By way of description the CCC's mission is to "provide a focus for area churches and human-service agencies to optimize services and resources for people in need". The coalition meets for 2 hours once a month, and is open to anyone. This is an effective, action-oriented group of people representing a wide array of faith communities and social service agencies. The CCC provides cross agency/church communication to avoid duplication of effort, informative presentations to keep all updated and frequently serves as a network and action body for helping individuals in need.

UUFD has had representative on this coalition the majority of the time since the CCC formed in 2004. Other churches and faith communities represented are Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Baptist, Quakers, Presbyterian, one evangelical church and the Jewish synagogue. A lengthy list of human services agencies are members as well.

In the last several years, UUFD has been well represented at our meetings bringing news of their adult and youth community action, for example immigration issues, incarceration inequities - Jim Crow issues, living wage reform, increasing shelter for the homeless, supply collection for the local safe house, providing small loans for new business. The fellowship not only speaks of and educates about issues of need, the collective "they" have also developed personal relationships with those in need in the community.

I commend UUFD to ministerial candidates in search of a church with a strong partnership of community social consciousness and social justice action. The CCC would heartily welcome a Unitarian Universalist minister into it's midst.

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