



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Durham CAN Listening Sessions in Progress

Durham Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods (CAN) strengthens congregations and community institutions by developing the skills and capacity of our leaders to be change agents in the public process. Durham CAN creates a vehicle for ordinary families like yours to have a voice in community decisions that affect their lives, instead of leaving decision-making in the hands of a select few. FPC has been a member for more than 20 years, with successful efforts to enroll our community in Affordable Care Act coverage, build affordable housing (next door is a great example), interpreters in our schools, and so much more. Our work is relational, building trust among people and institutions across Durham County, intentionally crossing boundaries of economics, race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation and geography that divide our communities. The energy of the work is often driven by these relationships that build shared commitment to people who historically have not worked together, but get to know each other and collaborate successfully for positive change in our community.

This month, our FPC Core Team for Durham CAN is convening Listening Sessions to hear your concerns to bring them to Durham CAN to set an agenda for positive change. Guided by organizing people and power, CAN believes in "never doing for others what we can do for ourselves" and is "issue-driven" but non-partisan ("there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies - just permanent issues".) You may be concerned about our schools, gun violence, affordable housing, immigrant rights, food insecurity, voting rights or anything. Durham CAN provides us with an opportunity to organize and support our neighbors across Durham to advocate for changes in a time when it is essential that we love our neighbors and build a strong sense of community..

Plan to join us for a listening session during March in your Sunday School class, fellowship group, or a pop-up opportunity to connect and share about the issues that matter to you and your neighbors. We also welcome new members to our Core Team! Reach out to Susan Dunlap, Tom Bacon, Kathy Krayenbuhl, Cris Rivera, or Sharon Hirsch with any questions. We're excited to hear what you want to work on together.