

marcc “...to forgo the luxury of separate ways when a common path can be found...”

**Metropolitan
Area
Religious
Coalition of
Cincinnati**

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Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Association of Unity Churches

Baptist Ministers Conference
of Cincinnati and Vicinity

Cincinnati Conference
(Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

Cincinnati Islamic Center

Disciples of Christ – SW Ohio

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Greek Orthodox Church of
Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

JCRC of The Jewish Federation

Miami Association (American Baptists)

Ohio River Valley District
(United Methodist Church)

Presbytery of Cincinnati

Religious Society of Friends

Southwest Ohio-Northeast Kentucky Division
(The Salvation Army)

Unitarian Universalist Council
of Greater Cincinnati

United Church of Christ

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January 24, 2011

To: Mayor Mallory and City Council Members Qualls, Berding, Bortz, Ghiz,
Thomas, Winburn, Murray, and Young

RE: Federal Funding for the Anna Louise Inn

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

The Board of the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati at its Board meeting on Friday, January 21, 2011 passed a motion “to support the \$2.6 million federal grant to Cincinnati Union Bethel for the renovation of the Anna Louise Inn and strongly encourage City Council approve the federal funding without delay”. Our interfaith coalition of seventeen denominations made up of Muslims, Jews, Protestants, Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and Unitarian-Universalists voted Homelessness/Affordable Housing as one of its two major concerns. This concern rests on the belief that anyone who is homeless for whatever reason needs to be supported and transitioned into safe and affordable housing.

MARCC participated in the Homeless to Homes Planning and Implementation process for single people in need of housing. Cincinnati Union Bethel’s housing at the Anna Louise Inn is the only affordable and safe housing that exists for single women. With their renovation plan the current capacity will go from 260 down to 152, in order to improve the quality of each unit while working within the historic character of a district the Inn has thrived in for over 100 years.

Of all the housing torn down for development in the past ten years in Over-the-Rhine and Downtown neighborhoods, it is the elimination of hundreds of units for affordable Single Resident Occupancies (SROs) that has contributed to the need for affordable rental units. This is all the more reason the Anna Louise Inn needs to remain where it is and include a plan for permanent supportive housing, identified in the Homeless to Homes Plan as a top priority. Over the last couple of years, through many development projects the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation has made progress in their understanding and support for permanent supportive housing in the Downtown neighborhood, which we welcome.

In order to move a significant number of our city residents off the streets they need the kind of safe and affordable housing offered by the Anna Louise Inn. The Inn’s renovation plan is in keeping with the Homeless to Homes Plan and MARCC is asking you to support this funding without further delay.

Thank you,

Margaret A. Fox
Executive Director