



LIVE, GIVE, LOVE...BEYOND ALL EXPECTATION

February 16, 2011

Office of Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison WI 53702

Dear Governor Walker:

It was my great honor to meet you and participate in your prayer breakfast on the day of your inauguration. Thank you for the invitation. I continue to pray for you and your administration.

However, today I have a concern. United Methodists state in our *2008 Book of Discipline* the following:

"We support the right of all public and private employees and employers to organize for collective bargaining into unions and other groups of their own choosing. Further, we support the right of both parties to protection in so doing and their responsibility to bargain in good faith within the framework of the public interest. In order that the rights of all members of the society may be maintained and promoted, we support innovative bargaining procedures that include representatives of the public interest in negotiation and settlement of labor-management contracts, including some that may lead to forms of judicial resolution of issues. We reject the use of violence by either party during collective bargaining or any labor/management disagreement. We likewise reject the permanent replacement of a worker who engages in a lawful strike."

I share this with you because I understand the importance of balancing our state budget while continuing to provide the best services possible to our citizens. But because of my belief that far more is accomplished for the best interests of all those we serve when employers and employees work together, I am writing to ask you to reconsider your initiative which I believe would end the possibility for those who are government employees here in Wisconsin to negotiate settlement of labor and management disagreements.

Our scriptures teach us that in Christ there is no north or south, no east or west, no slave or free. Is there not another way to accomplish what is needed?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bishop Linda Lee".

Bishop Linda Lee

LL/cjc

