

## **Central Hall policy on responding to requests for services of prayer and thanksgiving from same sex couples**

The Methodist Church at Coventry Central Hall believes that all people are made in the image of God and that we are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and our neighbours as ourselves. In this light, we seek to respond to couples seeking the ministry of the church as equally as possible, within the constraints of the law of the land and the discipline of the Methodist Church.

We are always pleased to welcome couples who wish the church's involvement in the celebration of their relationship. Our normal expectation would be that the couple would meet with the minister to discuss the occasion, to explore Christian understandings of God's love expressed in marriage and relationships and to undertake appropriate preparation and study. In this, we seek to respond to the particular needs and situation of each couple.

We are not able at present to solemnise same sex marriages or to register civil partnerships at Central Hall. The Methodist Conference would need to change our discipline for this to happen and there would then be further legal processes for us to complete. However, we are pleased to offer services of prayer and thanksgiving following a same sex marriage or civil partnership celebrated elsewhere. Couples who would be interested in exploring this possibility should contact the minister who can make the necessary arrangements.