

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2014

A zoning application to allow community gardens throughout the city will be considered for approval by the Yakima City Council at its meeting on November 18. This action is growing out of a desire by Restoration Church, a downtown church, to plant a community garden.

Pastor Kevin Deyette believes community gardens provide wonderful opportunity to overcome cultural, social and economic barriers. “What better way to achieve community than to have people work side-by-side in growing affordable produce, learning new gardening techniques and creating positive neighborhood events?” said Deyette.

The church began working with the city’s Community Development Department, Master Gardeners, and leaders of similar projects in other cities in order to come up with a workable ordinance. “When we first began considering a community garden project for our church, we were surprised to find out they were not permitted anywhere in Yakima. City planning officials saw the need, and were excellent to work with in crafting an ordinance that would promote their creation, while providing some rules for garden operations” said Deyette.

Once the measure is adopted, the church will begin focusing on a garden project to start up in the spring.