



Journey for Justice

Building a commitment to significantly reduce homelessness in the District of Columbia, 2015 – 2019.

WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER!

BECAUSE: Housing is a human right, a right to a roof over one's head that is affordable, safe and sustainable.

BECAUSE: There are over 15,000 homeless in the District over the course of a typical year, one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country.

BECAUSE: In the District, a worker earning the minimum wage (\$9.50 per hour) must work approximately 116 hours per week, 52 weeks a year to afford a 2 bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent (\$1,500 per month).

BECAUSE: Extended stay in shelter for families and children creates further instability in lives already overstressed, often resulting in unwise decisions such as happened in Relisha Rudd's family.

BECAUSE: As people of faith we CAN not and MUST not stand by as our friends and neighbors choose between rent and feeding their children, between living on the street and fleeing an abuser.

BECAUSE: As people of faith, we promote congregation charity and service. However, we realize that individual congregations working alone, or even together, can't create and support affordable housing on the scale required to meet the need or make the safety net more just for all our neighbors who are poor and vulnerable

BECAUSE: The District government and residents have ample resources if wisely invested and managed to underwrite cost-effective programs that will drastically reduce homelessness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that based on our shared values we, the undersigned, affirm our faith-based commitment:

- to support actively public efforts and programs to provide temporary and permanent affordable housing to all in need;
- to monitor aggressively the progress of such programs and focus public attention on any shortcomings;
- to work energetically with other organizations and individuals to deepen awareness and broaden participation in the reduction of homelessness;
- to continue to be forcefully engaged in efforts to reduce the plight of families, children and individuals who are homeless in the District of Columbia.

Organization: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____ Email (please PRINT): _____



A covenant between the undersigned congregations and the Mayor of the District of Columbia to significantly reduce homelessness in the District of Columbia, 2015 – 2019.

The undersigned congregations shall:

- support actively public efforts and programs to provide temporary and permanent affordable housing to all in need;
- monitor aggressively the progress of such programs and focus public attention on any shortcomings;
- work energetically with other organizations and individuals to deepen awareness and broaden participation in the reduction of homelessness;
- continue to be forcefully engaged in efforts to reduce the plight of families, children and individuals who are homeless in the District of Columbia.

The Mayor of the District of Columbia shall:

- make the issues of homelessness and affordable housing for families, children and individuals a priority in each year of the administration;
- define priority status to include comprehensive program planning, timely implementation, on-going evaluation, public reporting on progress and funding adequate to the needs.

This covenant summons the conscience and commitment of the signers to address the serious problems of homelessness and affordable housing in the District of Columbia.

WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER!