



## Diocesan Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Affordability

**Presentation to Synod  
2023**

**May 12 & 13**





# Meet the Task Force

**Rev. Simbarashe Basvi** (*St. David's, Delta*) – Co-Chair

**Vicki Potter**, ODNW (*St. John's Shaughnessy, Vancouver*) – Co-Chair

**Peter Bailey**, ODNW (*Christ Church, Hope*)

**Sharon Cooper** (*St. John the Apostle, Port Moody*)

**Rev. Paul Richards** (*Church of the Holy Trinity, White Rock*)

**David Van Blarcom**, ODNW (*The 127 Society for Housing*)

**Rev. Alex Wilson** (*St. Anselm's, Vancouver*)

**Rev. Tellison Glover**, *Diocesan Liaison*

# Task Force Purpose



*Longhouses and poles by Bill Reid and Jim Hart, UBC Museum of Anthropology.*

*To increase*  
**awareness and understanding**  
*of the issues and causes surrounding*  
**homelessness and housing vulnerability**  
*and to provide*  
**practical options**  
*for the Diocese and its parishes to use its*  
**gifts and resources**  
*to respond*





# Elements of the Report

- Executive Summary (pg. 4)
- Resolutions (pg 7)
- Recommendations (pg. 7-11)
- Background Materials (pg 15-34)



# Our Learnings: Background Materials (pgs 15-34)

- a) What does “Affordable Housing” really mean?
- b) Issue and impact review
- c) Our faith leads us to act: Theology of homeless ministries
- d) Overview of findings from interviews
- e) Affordable Housing visions from around the world
- f) Parish visions transformed into housing
- g) How the Diocese can use its resources to house people



# The Recommendations

**THEMES**  Collaborate - Advocate -  
Resource - Vision

**ACTIONS**  Diocesan - Regional - Parish/Individual



# Recommendation 1: Enhance Collaboration



**Food Programs**

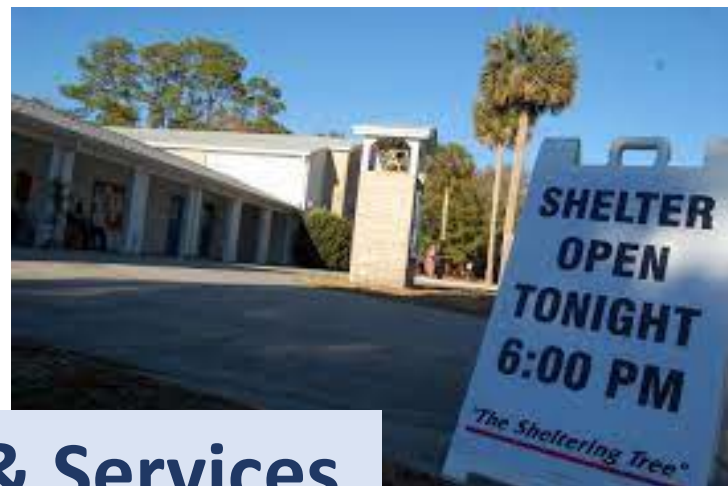
*Responding to the  
**CRISIS**  
and transforming  
ourselves through  
this service*



**Outreach**



**Shelter & Services**



# Recommendation 2: Promote Advocacy



*One-on-one assistance*

**SPEAK UP  
STAND UP  
SHOW UP  
FOR JUSTICE**



*Annual Homeless Counts*



*Responding to Tent Cities*



*Influencing government policy*



# Recommendation 3: Resource our Efforts

## ***Support Crisis Relief Initiatives***

*Parish Grants*  
(66x \$5000 = \$345k)

*“Housing Animator”  
Staff Position  
\$120k*



*All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.*

*Book of Acts 4:32*

# Recommendation 4: Create a Vision



***Fund Affordable Housing***  
*Leveraging our church*  
*properties and assets*  
*(Amount TBD)*



# Synod Resolutions (pg. 7)

THAT

1. Synod declare our response to the crisis of Homelessness and Housing Affordability as a Diocesan ministry priority.
2. Synod receive and affirm in principle the Recommendations at the Diocesan, Regional and Parish/Personal levels.





# Synod Resolutions (pg. 7)

THAT

3. Synod direct the Diocese to establish a grant fund of \$5000 per parish, subject to available funding, to support "crisis ministries".
4. Synod approve and direct the Diocese, subject to available funds, to hire a Housing Animator



# Synod Resolutions (pg. 7)

THAT

5. Synod direct the Bishop to develop a Diocesan Housing Vision.
6. Synod direct the Diocese to establish an Affordable Housing implementation Committee



