



**ENDING HOMELESSNESS
Wallingford Endorses the
10-Year Plan to End Homelessness**

From Jane Soder, Social Justice Chair....

What can you and I do about the problem of homelessness? Wallingford United Methodist Church has endorsed the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. With that endorsement, we have agreed to take some of the actions laid out by the Church Council of Greater Seattle in the statement below this message. Several of our ongoing programs and projects support these actions, but we can do more.

As Chair of Social Justice, I represent WUMC on the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (ITFH). Much of the work of this Task Force is to raise awareness of faith groups to the existence of homelessness in our community, and to communicate ways that people of faith can help make the 10-year plan succeed. The ITFH closely follows legislative discussions and actions related to homelessness, and alerts their members and supporters about emails, phone calls, and letters to City and County Council members and state legislators about legislation related to homelessness.

Communications to our councilmembers and legislators is an easy, but important, way we at WUMC can help make progress in the effort to end homelessness. Most often, the ITFH calls for emails, etc. are time-sensitive. For example, a piece of legislation is about to be voted on, or may die in committee if it doesn't get out. Emails and phone calls to legislators or councilmembers are needed immediately. Too soon for me to get an article in the Wellwisher or make an announcement in church!!

I will compile a group email list of WUMC folks that would like to participate in this effort, and send the list a notice of action needed when I hear about it from the ITFH or other sources. (I may occasionally add similar requests for other social justice-related issues also.) Would you like to join? If so, please send me your email address, and I will put it on the list. Then, wait for the requests, and make your voice heard.

Thanks,
Jane: janesoder@comcast.net

Here's what we pledged:

**We hereby endorse
the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County,
and we pledge as a faith community to assist in its implementation
with at least one of these following actions:**

- Pray for those who are experiencing homelessness and for courage to do our part to end homelessness;
- Become knowledgeable about the issue of homelessness;
- Provide emergency or transitional shelter to the homeless through programs like Congregations for the Homeless, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, ARISE, tent city, and other programs;
- Provide support services for those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- Partner with other congregations to provide for new shelter, transitional, or permanent low-income housing;
- Advocate with local governments for an expanded pool of resources for affordable and supportive housing;
- ♦ Advocate for livable wages for all who work, so that safe housing can be in the reach of everyone who works full-time.

