

Dear Partners,

**The Invitation:**

We are inviting you to work with us and members of First Methodist (FUMC) to make sure the homeless shelter at First Methodist on Fenn Street becomes a reality. As some of you already know, this work is already well underway and Downtown Pittsfield Inc. (DPI) and the downtown business owners are working to bring it to a halt. As one member said during the Development Review Board hearing last week (and I paraphrase), “it’s not about wanting it in my backyard, I don’t even want it in my front yard.”

**Prayer and Faith Response:**

People of faith communities have always made provisions for the most vulnerable among us. With this in mind, we have a responsibility to act. God continually asks of us, “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” And we respond, “I will, with God’s help.” It is time to pray with our hearts, our hands and our feet. Prayer and raised voices, with God’s help bring aid to the most vulnerable and make God’s love known.

**Action:**

Here is how to mobilize.

We would like 10 people from your community to make three calls each for a total of 30 phone calls on your assigned day. The three calls would be to: Downtown Pittsfield, Inc., Senator Adam Hinds and Mayor Linda Tyer. At the end of each week, this would amount to each entity receiving at least 150+ phone calls. We want to keep the pressure on. The Development Review Board for the City is scheduled to meet again to vote on this project August 18<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the phone calls, we are asking a letter from every vestry/council be sent to the Development Review Board (DRB) to express your support for the homeless shelter. The address and phone numbers needed for this action are in the enclosed documents.

To aid in this process we have also created a potential call in script, background information on the overall project and contact information. We are grateful to The Rev. Ralph Howe who provided the shelter background and background on ServiceNet.

As a best organizing practice, we invite you to consider having a point person in your community to help organize those who will be making the phone calls. Below is a proposed schedule. The most important piece is for phone calls to be made every day. I realize I have not been in touch with all of you about your participation, if these days do not work for you, please be in touch:

Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Zion Lutheran and First Baptist

Tuesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>: South Congregational and Kneset Israel

Wednesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>: Cathedral of the Beloved and First Congregational

Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>: St. Stephen’s and Anshe Amunim

Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>: First Methodist

Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup>: St. Stephen’s and Kneset Israel

Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>: Zion Lutheran and First Baptist

Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>: South Congregational and First Congregational

Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>: First Baptist and Anshe Amunim

Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>: Cathedral of the Beloved and First Methodist

Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>: Everyone

Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>: Everyone

Please let us know if you have any questions.

On behalf of Cathedral of the Beloved’s board, staff, and those we serve, thank you.

Faithfully,  
Jenny+  
The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Priest  
Cathedral of the Beloved  
413-344-8262