

Justice Committee – Statement on Homelessness

Portland Mennonite Church is committed to ‘seeking the peace of the city’ (Jeremiah 29.7). In Portland upwards of 4,000 men, women and children are homeless at any one time. At PMC, we acknowledge that people become homeless not when they succumb to substance abuse, lack financial resources, suffer from mental illness or succumb to other societal barriers, but ‘when they run out of relationships’ (Paul Schroeder, Executive Director of New City Initiative). We believe we can help ‘seek the peace of the city’ by developing meaningful relationships with the homeless in our community and with partners also seeking systemic change. PMC will seek to:

- building a network of mutually-enriching relationships between individuals in our congregation and people who have experienced homelessness or are currently homeless;
- responding to the immediate needs of people on the street by actively partnering with agencies and ministries in our community that prioritize relationship building;
- assuming a leadership role and providing a faith-based platform for the homeless to advocate for systemic solutions that include developing an adequate supply of low-income housing in the Portland area.

(September 23, 2015)