



Trinity United Methodist Church

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Love
God.
Love 
People.

May 29, 2018

Dear Friends at St. Joseph Mission,

I met recently with two of your board members, Dave MacDonald and Sharon Kacprowicz, and was excited to hear that you are as concerned about helping the homeless in our community as I am. This has been a concern of mine since I chaired the Fort Wayne Homeless Task Force several years ago. Not much has changed regarding available shelter since I was instructed to disband the Task Force.

Now, serving as a pastor, I am experiencing people coming directly to the church or calling the church on a regular basis asking where they can go for help. The biggest need seems to be for women who are not suffering from any of the issues for which most of the homeless shelters are specialized to handle such as mental illness, drug abuse, domestic violence, etc. If a person is just down on their luck for some reason, there is limited if any availability for shelter.

Another population that is not adequately served are those couples who do not have children, but do not wish to be separated. There always seems to be room at the Rescue Mission for the men, but the men I have worked with do not want to leave their wives on the street alone. Apparently the common belief among shelter administrators is that a woman will more likely be helped by family members, but not everyone has family in Fort Wayne.

Please know that I feel your facility is a much needed service within the Fort Wayne community and I pray that God will bless your efforts.

Sincerely,

Pastor Debbie Smith

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