Congregational Housing Action Guide

For Edmonton Religious and Spiritual Communities

Prepared by the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative
Revised July 21, 2015

Capital Region Interfaith Statement on Homelessness & Affordable Housing

March 17, 2011 I Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative I Renewed November 13, 2014

We, leaders of different religious and spiritual communities in Edmonton and area, come together to express our shared commitment to eliminate homelessness in our community. We support the challenging goals of A Place to Call Home: Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness.

Over the years, religious and spiritual communities have done much to meet the needs of men, women and children living in poverty in our community, and have often been leaders in helping to create affordable housing opportunities for those in need.This historical engagement provides a solid foundation for us to do even more both now and in the future.

The successful launch of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness provides an historic opportunity for us to move beyond previous short-term strategies of managing homelessness, and to commit to a long term goal of actually eliminating homelessness in our community. Leaders from government, business, community, faith, and social service sectors have come together in common cause to develop and launch Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. This shared commitment has been a major factor in the successes achieved so far in the six years of the Plan's implementation.

Call to Action

We call upon leaders of all orders of government to continue their public leadership for Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, and to provide the necessary program funding in the years ahead so that the ambitious goal of eliminating homelessness can be truly realized.

We recognize that safe, stable, and affordable housing is a key part of this human thriving. Everyone needs a place that can truly be called home. Religious and spiritual communities and individual community members are present in every part of the city, and we commit to continue and expand our presence in neighbourhood and city wide homelessness and affordable housing initiatives.

We commit our own religious and spiritual communities to continue to support present initiatives, to find new and creative ways to take action in support of Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our communities. We have prepared a Congregational Housing Action Guide to support and encourage our congregations in addressing these issues in an effective manner.

We invite everyone from all sectors of society in Edmonton to become part of this important initiative to eliminate homelessness by committing to learn more about the causes of homelessness in our city, and to participate in specific actions in support of our homeless brothers and sisters in a spirit of solidarity and mutual respect.

We call for our religious and spiritual communities to work together more closely and make a major contribution to the success of this Plan. Our religious and spiritual communities share important values: respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals and families can thrive.

Bishop Jane Alexander	Anglican Diocese of Edmonton
Elder Fred Campiou	Indigenous Elders Cultural Resource Circle Society
Major Ron Cartmell	The Salvation Army, Alberta and Northern Territories Division
Rev. Harry Currie	Presbytery of Edmonton-Lakeland, Presbyterian Church in Canada
Avau Fast	Zoroastrian Association of Edmonton
Rev. Dr. David J. Fekete	Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action
Rev. Mervin Gallant	Edmonton Presbytery, United Church of Canada
Balvant Gandhi	Hindu Society of Alberta
Patti Hartnagel	Edmonton Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends
Pastor Bonnie Hodge	Beulah Alliance Church
Prem Kalia	International Buddhist Friends Association
Rev. Brian Kiely	Unitarian Church of Edmonton
Bishop Larry Kochendorfer	Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Rev. Kevin Kraglund	Edmonton and District Council of Churches
Bart Lambrecht	Baha'i Assembly of Edmonton
Pastor Wayne McNeilly	Evangel Pentecostal Assembly
Bishop David Motiuk	Ukrainian Eparchy of Edmonton
Rev. John Pasma	Covenant Christian Reformed Church
Bryan Peacock	Moravian Church in Canada
Masood Peracha & Sofia Yaqub	The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities
Dr. Randy Randhawa	Sikh Society of Alberta
Pam Reichenbach	Strathcona Baptist Church
Rabbi Kliel Rose	Beth Shalom Synagogue
Archbishop Richard Smith	The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton
Rev. Rick VanDewark	Edmonton Evangelical Ministerial Association

Contents

Introduction

The first Congregational Housing Action Guide was published in March 2011 when 23 Edmonton faith community leaders signed the Interfaith Statement making a commitment to find new and creative ways to address the issues of homelessness and affordable housing in our communities. This guide was prepared to assist members of local faith communities to find practical ways of getting involved in issues relating to homelessness and affordable housing. A lot has happened over the past four years. Several hundred copies of this guide have been distributed. Dozens of congregational workshops and presentations have been held all across the Edmonton region based on this guide.

Edmonton is moving into Year 7 of its 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Faith communities are playing a major role in the successes to date in realizing the goal of ending chronic homelessness in Edmonton. Hopefully this role can expand in the years ahead. This revised and updated Congregational Housing Action Guide can be an important tool in helping to make this happen.

Please direct suggestions to:

John Gee
Housing Coordinator
Interfaith Housing Initiative

c/o Anglican Diocese of Edmonton,
J.gee@edmonton.anglican.ca
780-439-7344

How to Get Involved: Ten Approaches

For more information see the following pages of this guide.

1. Learn more
   - Contact us to book a speaker or arrange a workshop
2. See first hand
   - Volunteer to help serve meals with a front line agency
3. Reach out in your own neighbourhood
   - Contact one of the congregations mentioned in this Guide for ideas
4. Join with faith and community networks already working in your area
   - Check with social agencies on how you can support their work to end homelessness
5. Draw from the strengths, wisdom and practices of your spiritual tradition
   - All of us are called to walk with and serve the marginalized in our communities
6. Welcome Home: Journey with families and individuals moving into new homes
   - Volunteer 2 hours a week for a life-altering experience
7. Become involved with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing
   - Help recruit volunteers for the Annual Interfaith Habitat Works
8. Become an advocate: participate in neighbourhood housing conversations
   - Contact and join your local Community League or Homeowners Association
9. Be an advocate to the government
   - Speak to elected government representatives about homelessness and affordable housing
10. Provide financial and in kind support for affordable housing projects
    - Donate surplus land or partner in a development project

1 Learn more

- Learn more about homelessness in our community and what is being done through Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness: A Place to Call Home, www.endedmontonhomelessness.com

- Have your congregation view videos or invite a guest speaker from a front line agency to educate them about the work being done to end homelessness in Edmonton. Videos such as the stories of hope from Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness: A Place to Call Home share the progress achieved so far in under 10 minutes and can be incorporated easily into a worship service or meeting. http://homelesscommission.org/index.php/progress/true-stories-of-hope

- Join with members of the inner city community to mourn the loss of those who have died from homelessness in Edmonton. The Edmonton Homeless Memorial Remembrance Celebration occurs annually, usually in May or June. For more information visit: www.ecohh.ca

- Read the Alberta Street News to stay connected with the community, albertastreetnews.org

- Check out the website of Homeward Trust for the latest statistics and news about ending homelessness in Edmonton, www.homewardtrust.ca

- Check out The Homeless Hub for information on homelessness across Canada, www.homelesshub.ca

- Invite us to offer a Congregational Housing Workshop at your church. Contact J.gee@edmonton.anglican.ca

- Use your social media influence for good. Follow us on Twitter @IfhiEdm and Facebook Inter-Faith Housing Initiative and re-tweet or repost to your friends and followers. Help spread the word to everyone in Edmonton that we are working together to end homelessness.

- Learn more about Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal people represent 41% of those experiencing homelessness, according to the 2014 Homeless Count. While several faith congregations have established strong ties to Edmonton's Aboriginal community, there is still much more to do and learn. Homeward Trust offers workshops about Indigenous Culture to assist those working on housing issues. Visit www.homewardtrust.ca for more information

2 See first hand

- Spend time at a "front-line" agency which serves those who are homeless. Meet and talk with people who are experiencing homelessness. Make it personal.
- Does your congregation already have an ongoing relationship with a front-line agency? Many congregations regularly support the initiatives of organizations such as serving Sunday Lunch with Inner City Pastoral Ministry, serving an evening meal at The Mustard Seed, or a lunch at the Marian Centre, or one of the many other initiatives that are happening in Edmonton's inner city.
- Want to get your group involved with a front line agency but don't know where to start? Here are some ideas:
  1. ICPM (Inner City Pastoral Ministry): A rotating roster of congregations that serve lunch after worship at Bissell Centre on Sundays. Contact www.icpmedmonton.ca
  2. The Mustard Seed: Serve an evening meal with your group or become a regular volunteer for one of their many programs or events. Contact www.theseed.ca

3. Marian Centre: Help prepare and serve lunch at the Marian Centre. Contact 780-424-3544 or mceedmonton@shaw.ca
4. Jasper Place Health and Wellness Center (JPHAWC): Spend time establishing relationships with clients, help prepare and serve meals, and bring your group in to serve. Contact www.jpwc.ca
5. St. Vincent de Paul Society: To find a location and opportunities near you. Contact 780-471-5577 or www.ssvpedmonton.ca
6. The Salvation Army Addictions and Residential Center: for volunteer and donation needs, contact 780-429-4274 or www.salvationarmy.ca/alberta
7. Hope Mission: Help serve a meal or help with other needs. Contact www.hopemission.com/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-in-edmonton
8. Mosaic Centre: (NE Edmonton) Help out with donations, clean up, or a variety of other needs. Contact 780-722-3247 or Mosaiccentre@shaw.ca
9. Bissell Centre: Help out with special events, bring your group in, or become a regular volunteer. Contact 780-423-2285 extension 264
10. Boyle Street Community Services: Volunteer in the drop in or with one of the many other programs, c ontact 780-424-4106 extension 264 www.boylestreet.org
11. Operation Friendship: Connect with seniors living in Edmonton's inner city. Contact 780-408-2958.
12. Youth Empowerment & Support Services (Y.E.S.S.): In 2014, over 241 youth were counted in the Edmonton Homeless count. Support youth experiencing homelessness in Edmonton through the Y.E.S.S. shelter and Armory Drop-In Center. Contact volunteer@yess.org
13. The Neighbour Centre provides programs and services to individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty to help them in their journey to build, and sustain, a healthy life. To volunteer, donate or learn more, contact 780 439-5216 or at www.theneighbourcentre.ca
14. Open Door Project: works to prevent homelessness by supporting former inmates through their successful transition from prison back into the community; providing mentorship, support groups, and chaplaincy services. Contact 780-439-3654 ext. 805 or www.theneighbourcentre.ca
15. Participate in the annual Homeless Connect event.
16. Contribute furniture and household goods to Homeward Trust's FIND program. Contact 780-988-1717 or find@homewardtrust.ca

3 Reach out in your own neighbourhood

The issues of homelessness and affordable housing are not confined to Edmonton's inner city neighbourhoods. The successful elimination of homelessness in Edmonton will require the commitment of individuals and organizations in all parts of Edmonton.

Sometimes the best place for a faith congregation to start is in its own neighbourhood. St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish on 118 Avenue provides a good example. Edmonton Inner City Housing Society (EICHS) announced a new housing development associated with Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness located a few blocks from the St. Alphonsus church building. The pastor spoke with his parishioners about how the parish might get involved. With the help of the Parish Outreach Team of Catholic Social Services, the pastor convened parish meetings and invited the Executive Director of EICHS to speak with parishioners after a Sunday worship service. This led to a creative discussion about how the parish could help provide a community welcome for the new EICHS residents, and develop an ongoing mutually supportive relationship. The parish members saw this as a first step towards a wider commitment

to address the issues of homelessness in their community.

The Bonnie Doon community has been acknowledged for its welcoming support of Iris Court, a new facility which opened in their neighbourhood in March 2015. Iris Court provides affordable, permanent, supportive housing to 21 individuals living with serious mental illness and at risk of homelessness. It employs support staff 24 hours per day, 7 days a week along with on-site staff and training provided by Alberta Health Services, Mental Health and Addictions.

4 Join with faith and community networks already working in your area

In recent years, local faith communities have been organizing into regional ecumenical/ interfaith and community networks in different parts of Edmonton to address shared social concerns including homelessness. Community social workers employed by the City of Edmonton have often supported these groups. Examples include:

- West Edmonton
  Jeanette Wright
  Jeanette.Wright@edmonton.ca
- NE Interfaith Networking Group –
  Katie Walker, Katie.Walker@edmonton.ca
- South Edmonton communities
  Pastor Pam Reichenbach,
  pam@strathconabaptist.ca or 780-439-3654
- Abundant Communities Initiative
  Howard Lawrence,
  howardlawrence@shaw.ca or 780-707-9501

City centre churches have worked together through the Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (E4C) agency for forty years. E4C is expanding its scope city wide and is inviting participation by faith congregations throughout the city, www.e4calberta.org.

5 Draw from the strengths, wisdom, and practices from your spiritual tradition

One continuing initiative among several of the Christian churches is called No Room in the Inn remembering the difficult circumstances of Jesus' birth. Since 1999, Christian churches have organized a Christmas campaign in support of affordable and safe housing. Each year a different housing project is chosen. In 2014, Edmonton area churches raised over $75,000 in support of renovations at Citrus Court operated by the Canadian Mental Health Association. For more information check the Edmonton and District Council of Churches website www.edccunity.org or contact John Gee at J.gee@edmonton.anglican.ca or Don Mayne at Dmayne@shaw.ca

In March 2013, the Hindu Society of Alberta honored the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, an inspiring personality well known in India and North America, by contributing 2500 urgently needed hosiery items to Boyle Street Community Services. This donation helps people living in poverty in inner city Edmonton.

During the Christmas Season, members of Edmonton's synagogues and the Arab Jewish Women's Peace Coalition assist Inner City Pastoral Ministry with preparing Sunday lunch for 300 people at a time when Christian churches are very busy with the season's celebrations.

Since 2001 members of Edmonton's Muslim community have hosted an annual dinner at Boyle Street Community Services to mark the end of the month-long Ramadan fast. "Within the Islamic tradition," says organizer Omar Yaqub , "there's different forms of obligations. There's obligations you have towards family,

there's obligations you have towards God ... and there's obligations one has towards their community. And one of the obligations we have towards our community is to feed the homeless."

Whether it is for Parkash Purb or Vaisakhi, the Sikh Community of Edmonton never forgets Edmonton's Food Bank. Sharing with those in need is a key aspect of Sikhism. Sikhs believe that nobody should go to bed hungry and that each and every person on earth should be fed. In 2013 alone, the Sikh Community donated 5,066 kilograms of food and $14,182 to the Food Bank.

6 Welcome Home: journey with individuals or families moving into a new home

The Welcome Home program is an interfaith initiative offered by Catholic Social Services in partnership with Sign of Hope, United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, and various faith communities of Edmonton. Welcome Home is a volunteer-based befriending program that provides companionship to individuals and families who have been housed by contracted Housing First agencies, in response to Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Volunteers engage in meaningful daily activities with program participants (e.g. going for coffee, attending a sporting event), providing companionship to reduce the loneliness and social isolation faced by many newly housed individuals. Through the development of stable, honest, and trusting relationships, participants will increase their community involvement, build self-confidence and positive life skills, and increase their success rate in retaining their housing.

Welcome Home is founded on a deep respect for human dignity, solidarity with those who are poor and vulnerable, and an affirmation of the importance of creating inclusive and welcoming communities. The program provides a relational experience that allows volunteers to make a difference in the lives of their neighbour. For more information, to volunteer, to make a financial contribution, or to host a Welcome Home information session in your community, please visit www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca or phone 780-378-2544

Greg's story illustrates how important relationships are for newly housed individuals. Greg, a formerly homeless man, moved to north Edmonton in September 2013. He quickly made friends with the elderly woman next door, Barb, and his neighbour down the hall, Daniel. Barb is on oxygen and has mobility issues. In the winter, Greg shovels her patio and clears a path to her car in the building's parking lot out back. As a token of thanks, Barb gave Greg a card and gift certificate for Christmas. One day Greg saw Daniel outside looking at a table that someone had left beside the dumpster. Daniel mentioned how he could use a table like that, but it looked like it was in a bit too rough a shape. Greg is an experienced carpenter, so he took the table, sanded it down, refinished it, and presented the final product to Daniel. As a token of his thanks, Daniel is teaching Greg how to make his own bread.

7 Become involved with Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton is a faith-based, charitable organization that is working towards a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Habitat's mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty. There are numerous ways to become involved with Habitat, whether individually or as a group:

1. Volunteer

With the help of volunteers from every skill level and background, we build homes for hard working families. You can participate by volunteering your time at one of Habitat's current build projects or indoors at their Prefab Shop. All sites are open 8:30am to 4:00pm, Tuesday to Saturday (excluding holidays).

There are other volunteer opportunities besides construction available – for example, you could volunteer at a ReStore or participate in a special event. To volunteer call 780-451-3416 or visit www.hfh.org

2. Provide a lunch

Every day on our work sites, volunteers eat lunch together. Lunches are provided by the generous support of churches, businesses and other groups. To provide a lunch, contact Kim Muir 780-720-4065 or visit www.hfh.org.

3. Support Habitat

You can support Habitat by donating at www.hfh.org, or donating gift-in-kind building materials. Please call 780-479-3566 for more information.

4. Support ReStore

Habitat for Humanity ReStores are retail outlets that sell new and gently-used building supplies and home improvement items to the public at a discounted rate. When you shop at ReStore or donate items, you help ensure that every dollar donated to Habitat for Humanity goes directly to building homes and serving families.

Store locations: 8210 Yellowhead Trail, 6909 – 76 Avenue, 16811 – 106 Avenue

Donating items: 780-477-4057 or www.hfh.org/restore

5. Spread the word about Habitat

Many of Habitat's partner families find out about the home ownership program through churches or faith communities. If families in your faith community work full-time, are willing to volunteer 500 hours toward building their home, and would not otherwise be able to afford to purchase a home, they might be eligible for a Habitat for Humanity home! For more information visit www.hfh.org.

6. Participate in the Habitat Interfaith Works

Each year the Habitat Interfaith Works takes place in the summer months. Representatives from the different faith communities that signed the Interfaith Statement on Homelessness and Affordable Housing join together to volunteer for a day at an Edmonton area Habitat build site to help build homes, work at a ReStore, work at the prefab shop, or provide lunches. Everyone is welcome to join. Help organize a work crew from your community. For more information contact Angela 780-451-3416 ext. 223 or visit www.hfh.org

The Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities stepped up to make the 4th Annual Interfaith-Habitat Works a success in 2015. Beginning with the planning meeting at Evangel Pentecostal Church in February, the Vice-Chair of the Muslim Communities brought a sizable group from her community

to offer their help. Then at the kick-off event on March 26th the Muslim Community provided a crowd with a magnificent 3 course middle eastern meal. In the months following they organized a contingent of their youth to volunteer as well as sending adults to help with Habitat's work. Finally as the wrap-up event was being organized for June 25th the Muslims recruited one of the MLAs to speak in support of the Interfaith work. Then to top off their contribution, the Muslims once again jumped in with another magnificent meal for everyone. This was truly generous of them since they were doing this during their month of Ramadan, the time in which they had to fast from sunrise to sunset!

8 Become an advocate: participate in neighbourhood housing conversations

Increasingly, when a developer seeks to build low income housing developments they run into local opposition. A relatively small group of vocal residents often dominates the neighbourhood conversation, turning the community against these projects.

Too often, people of faith and local faith leaders are missing from these conversations. So consider getting involved. Talk to your community league leadership. Learn the facts about low-income housing and join housing conversations in your neighbourhood. Listen carefully, and try to be a patient and steady voice reminding your neighbours of the importance of inclusion, compassion and hospitality.

If the conversation goes to City Council or to a Development Appeal board, stand up and share your perspective.

So many people need a healthy place to live. Help your neighbourhood become a welcoming place to people who really do need a home.

For a start in researching the facts around low income housing, look up http://homelesscommission.org/index.php/spread-the-word

9 Become an advocate: speak with elected government representatives about homelessness and affordable housing

Speak with politicians. Tell municipal, provincial, and federal elected representatives that you support Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and the use of public funds to achieve its goals. As you learn more about these issues, be more specific in your communications with elected officials – state the specific government initiatives you support,and name what is missing or inadequate in present government housing programs. Add your voice to make sure that issues of homelessness and affordable housing are raised during election campaigns.

The Edmonton Homeless Commission, www.endedmontonhomelessness.com has issued annual report cards on the progress made in implementing Edmonton's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. Community organizations such as the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH), www.ecohh.ca, and the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC), www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca, provide timely analysis reports on government policies addressing homelessness and affordable housing. Consider becoming an individual or organizational member of ECOHH or the ESPC.

10 Financial and in-kind support for new affordable housing projects

Garneau United Church/ Ashbourne Manor (Garneau Neighbourhood), Edmonton

A local congregation located on a prime real estate location decided to demolish their church building and partner to construct a high-rise providing long term care accommodations with a congregational worship space on the first floor.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Winnipeg

St. Matthew's was a small inner city congregation in a large church building with seating for over a 1000 people. The congregation joined with government and non-profit community partners to convert their church building into a multi-use facility including 25 much needed rental apartments. St. Matthew's continues to have a worship space in the shared facility. www.st-matthews.ca and thewestendcommons.ca

CMHC (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation)

The CMHC website provides examples of local faith congregations partnering through donations of land and funds to assist in the construction of new affordable housing units:

- Ottawa Multifaith Housing Initiative www.multifaithhousing.ca
- Somerset Gardens, Ottawa – St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/afhoce/prpr/upload/Somerset-Gardens-EN.pdf
- Eastern Gate Manor, St. John's NL St. John's First Assembly Pentecostal Church www.cmhc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/sust/sust_041.cfm
- Langford Affordable Housing Project http://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/en/inpr/afhoce/afhoce/vi/vi_022.cfm
- Canada/New Brunswick Affordable Housing Projects http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/social_development/housing/affordable_housing_projects.html

Churches can purchase additional land for housing development when developing new church sites. Housing can be an option when surplus church buildings in older neighbourhoods no longer serve as congregational worship space.

Other Canadian Multifaith Housing Organizations

Toronto, ON

The Multifaith Alliance to End Homelessness (MFATEH)
www.mfateh.ca

Scarborough, ON

Scarborough Interfaith Housing – The Caring Alliance
www.caringalliance.ca

Toronto
St. Clare's Multifaith Housing
Agency provides transition for people living in shelters or at risk of homeless. Since its inception, St. Clare's has developed 173 units of new, affordable housing in Toronto with another 190 units of new affordable housing currently under construction.
www.stclares.ca

Ottawa, ON
Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)
www.multifaithhousing.ca

Other Cities

where faith communities are being invited to work together to address homelessness

Calgary KAIROS, Acadia Place: A Place to Call Home Project
KAIROS Calgary brought together 10 Christian denominations and 130 congregations to raise $1.5 million as partners in an affordable housing project for 58 low income families.
http://acadiaplace.com

Calgary Inn from the Cold
Calgary Interfaith organization operates an emergency shelter which provides emergency accommodation and support services for homeless families. In addition, a network of 64 churches, synagogues, mosques and community associations host overnight Community Inns in their buildings 365 days a year
www.innfromthecold.org

City of Toronto, Affordable Housing and the Faith Community
http://www1.toronto.ca/city_of_toronto/affordable_housing_office/files/pdf/faith-brochure.pdf

For further information: Some helpful books

Dudley, Carl S. ***Community Ministry: New Challenges, Proven Steps to Faith-based Initiatives***. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 2002. (Guide for congregations initiating community ministries including housing)

Shook, Jill Suzanne, ed. ***Making Housing Happen: Faith-based Affordable Housing Models.*** Sr. Louis: Chalice, 2006. (Comprehensive description of US examples of faith groups initiating different models of affordable housing)

Bouma-Prediger, Steven, and Brian J. Walsh. ***Beyond Homelessness: Christian Faith in a Culture of Displacement.*** Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2008. (Reflections on homelessness drawing on theology and the social sciences.)

Gunderson, Gary. ***Deeply Woven Roots: Improving the Quality of Life in Your Community.*** Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997. (Identifies specific strengths of religious congregations for community development.)

Burt, Alan R. ***Blessings of the Burden: Reflections and Lessons in Helping the Homeless.*** Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. The author's reflections on his personal experiences, with a description of successful initiatives in Cape Cod, MA.

Skalitzky, Karen M. A ***Recipe for Home: Stories of Transformation by People Struggling with Homelessness.*** Skokie, IL: ACTA Publications, 2006. Many first-hand stories of homeless people in Chicago illustrating their strengths, complete with poetry and recipes.