



Good Faith Communities Coalition

Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia

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February 25, 2018

Building a Transforming Culture in Faith Communities for Social Justice

FACT: 26% of DC children (31000) live below the poverty line, which is **\$25,100 for a family of four**, with 14000 of those children living in deep poverty in **households earning less than \$12,000 a year.**

FACT: On a single night in January 2017, 7473 persons in the District were counted as homeless, **at least 897 of whom were *unsheltered* and living on the street.**

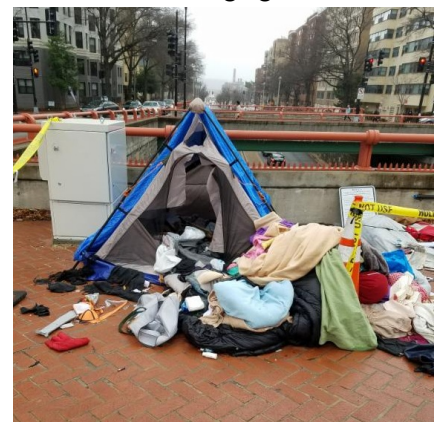
(Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, [Fact Sheet on Homelessness and Poverty](#))



This cycle, beginning with Encounter-Accompany, describes the journey that **faith communities as a whole with their individual members must engage as** they work for system change to confront these injustices. **Working for Social Justice can't be outsourced.** It is hard work that must be undertaken within a community. Frequently, the cycle needs to be repeated to re-energize and refocus the effort. It is only through this internal work and prayer that the **true gift of social justice is given and received - a more just community for all.**

Faith communities are exceptionally good at the first two steps in the cycle above. Service and charity are important and will always be needed. However, conscious engagement in the last three steps (Dialogue-Research, Raise Awareness, Advocate-Transform) is essential if a **compelling vision for the city is to emerge in which individuals and families living in poverty become a community priority, no longer discards, depending on endless charity to survive.**

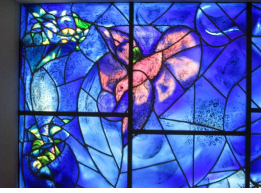
With the FACTS and other similar demographics before us in this budget and election year, should we as faith communities feel an urgency to begin the dialogue and



Rain - 45 degrees - Foggy Bottom 2/23/18

research that will put us on the road to community transformation? If not now, when?

Good Faith in the Washington Post: [Let's put people ahead of parking.](#)



On a personal note:

Rev. John Graham, a dear friend, pastor and GF Board President since Good Faith's first days, is healing at home on a long road to recovery. The Grace community has embraced John in prayer - pray with them for a full recovery for this man of faith and justice who has lead, inspired and accompanied Good Faith on its journey. Ann Friedman and John Hisle



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