

**RESOLUTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING
BETHEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Approved by Mission and Outreach Committee: November 17, 2015

Endorsed by Church Board: December 2, 2015

Approved at Annual Meeting of Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ
January 24, 2016

Whereas, safe and comfortable shelter/housing is essential to human life and dignity; and

Whereas, some 50% of Oregonians may have a hard time finding housing that they can afford; and

Whereas, lack of enough affordable housing contributes to homelessness, overcrowding, neighborhood displacement, couch-surfing, school disruptions, and financial hardship; and

Whereas, in the current economy, wages for low and middle income workers are stagnant while housing costs are increasing, contributing to expanding income inequality; and

Whereas, past policies and practices in building have contributed to racial, ethnic, and economic residential separations;

Therefore,

The Social Justice Advocacy in Action Committee urges the members and friends of Bethel Congregational United Church of Christ

- 1) be mindful of the existing and developing housing patterns in the church's immediate neighborhood and in their own neighborhoods, and
- 2) act to support diverse neighborhoods with adequate affordable housing by
 - A. participating in neighborhood civic groups,
 - B. sending letters and making calls to elected officials,
 - C. contributing to organizations supporting emergency shelters and affordable housing, and
 - D. having conversations with neighbors about the value of living in diverse neighborhoods with adequate affordable housing.