

Taking a Stand for Our Homeless Siblings in Brunswick and Glynn County, Georgia

A Statement Approved by Savannah Presbytery

October 17, 2023

We, the people of the Savannah Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (USA), as followers of the teachings of Jesus Christ, feel obligated to speak out against the reactions of the City of Brunswick and Glynn County governments to the needs of homeless people in our community.

Organizations and individuals who are trying to help provide dignity and support find themselves restricted by newly enacted zoning ordinances. These have also caused unnecessary delays in the completion of the *Hand In Hand* project that will house 60 homeless individuals and the Veterans Village, which will furnish tiny homes for 30 veterans.

Brought to an unsheltered existence by addiction, abuse, human trafficking, eviction, untreated mental illness and lifelong poverty, many of the presently unsheltered could be lifted up with sufficient mental, emotional and physical support in well-run facilities and with government agency assistance.

Joining our voices together as Presbyterians, we encourage our Savannah Presbytery to enlist the aid of all churches in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and beyond to respond to the call.

Please invite all who believe in the redemptive power of God's justice, truth and love to stand with our homeless brothers and sisters, those who are working with them, and the Savannah Presbytery to:

- Pray that we treat all as God would have us treat ourselves and others.
- Walk nonjudgmentally alongside the homeless and those who seek to better the lives of those in need.
- Hold our officials and neighbors accountable to the truth and our call to be our brother's and sister's keepers.
- Be willing instruments of God's love without wearying while doing good through the Holy Spirit.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Matthew 25:35-36