



The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

The Right Reverend Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop

October 26, 2016

Aloha,

Last year's Diocesan Convention passed a resolution that called for action. This was Resolution 5: Homelessness/Houselessness in Hawai'i. Unlike a one-time approval such as adopting a budget or making canonical amendments or statements of positions, it challenged us as congregations to explore and engage in addressing the homelessness/houselessness crisis in concrete ways. Last year, as a body of lay and clergy representing Episcopalians throughout this Diocese, we accepted that challenge in passing Resolution 5. We want to honor that and provide time to share with one another at this Annual Meeting, one year later.

In preparation for this conversation, especially since many delegates will not be the same as last year, we invite clergy and lay delegates to review the attached copy of last year's Resolution 5 and to give thought to the following questions: **Within your congregation, what have been the feelings and responses to this crisis of homelessness/houselessness in our state? What has been learned over this year? What has worked and what hasn't? How can we better support one another as a Diocese and as congregations in addressing this crisis?** For delegations that want an opportunity to discuss these questions prior to the Annual Meeting, St. Peter's is making space available in its Parish Hall on Friday, October 28, from 9:00am to 9:50am, before the Education Day begins.

We all recognize that this is a crisis that deeply impacts the present and future health of our communities. For some of us, this is very personal—we worry for ourselves or family members who are barely scraping by, for all of us we are challenged by the Christian calling not to ignore those who struggle just to put a roof over their head and food on a table. While we know that the Christian faith is not silent about this issue, we also recognize that the dimensions of this crisis are complex, that a wide range of responses are necessary, and that none of us can do it all.

Thank you for giving this thought. I look forward to our conversation together on Saturday.

Yours faithfully,

Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Bishop