

Ghent UMC
Homeless Task Force report – edited for privacy
April 11, 2021

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to share about the work we have been doing on the Homeless Task Force. I was asked to chair this multi church/organizational group 2 months ago and so I have begun to do that and this is my first time giving a written report to our Leadership Committee.

I have felt led to be a part of this particular mission work because of my faith and what I think is my calling to serve this population using my knowledge of human growth and development and my faith based on my readings and study of the Word of God. When I began on this task force over a year and a half ago I knew there would be challenges and I always asked myself, as things came up, what would God have us do? Thus the issues around sanitation, which were huge when I began to sit on this force, were brought forward, prayed about, brainstormed and then action was taken. We were able to collaborate with several churches (over a short time) and our friends at the synagogue and God provided us a way to begin to provide for the homeless. (Porta Potties at Christ & St. Lukes for the next 18 month and a portapotty at the synagogue the 4th week out of the month). It is being reported that these have been received well and have helped with this situation. We have also talked about the trash and Ghent led the way on this part by hiring [name] to look over the grounds, talk to the homeless and convey to them that they needed to do their part. ... We recently have begun to tackle the problem of homeless items left at the church. To that end, the temple and a congregation member purchased 2 large containers. These will be placed on Christ and St. Luke's property for the homeless to store their things; yet to come is how the homeless will store things in those containers. That will get talked about at our next task force meeting which will be this coming Wednesday, April 14th. Those have all been miracles of sorts led by God and good people who are working on serving the homeless.

Of note here, I want to share with you that the Task Force is also growing. When I joined there were two institutions that were working on this project; The Temple and our church, Ghent UMC. At our last meeting, we had 8 churches present and 2 organizations. They are: First Lutheran, New Life, Sacred Heart, Trinity Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Ohel Sholom, and us (Ghent UMC). Christ and St. Luke's was not present but has pledged their commitment to help. I will be calling tomorrow to check on them. It is very clear that many people in our community want to help the homeless.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Joseph