

FAITH COMMUNITIES AND HOMELESSNESS



Colorado Street Chaplaincy Collaborative invites faith leaders, pastors and staff to a panel discussion on homelessness in Denver at First Baptist Church of Denver at 1375 N Grant St Denver, CO 80203 on Thursday October 17th from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

Please RSVP here: www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4ba4af28a7f94-faith or on **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/events/718388248636142/

In Denver and the surrounding metro area, people experiencing homelessness are a highly visible reminder that everyone is not included equally in our community. In the wake of the 300 Initiative, otherwise known as the Right to Survive Initiative, residents of Denver and the surrounding area are faced with this reality: we may be able to do better, but how?

As people of faith we are called to respond compassionately to suffering and to remember that all people are of sacred worth. This charge means that faith communities in our city are viewed as a safe place to rest by people experiencing homelessness. Likewise, we also bear a responsibility to our particular communities and to the resources those communities hold in common.

As leaders, pastors, teachers, and staff, how do we faithfully respond to the suffering of our unhoused neighbors while also holding up the good of our congregations, the safety of our buildings, and the needs of our neighbors with homes?

As you join us, please consider the following topics and be prepared with your comments and questions as we wrestle for answers.

- 1) What services does your congregation/location currently provide (food, food banks, clothes, other services) and when (days & times)?
- 2) What issues does this service/interaction cause for your facility/property?
- 3) What solutions/rules/guidelines have worked to resolve those issues?
- 4) What has not worked and creates conflict?
- 5) How does this affect your congregation and the will to serve/interact with our neighbors experiencing homelessness?

Colorado Street Chaplaincy Collaborative calls together anyone offering faithful presence and accompaniment to people experiencing homelessness, as well as those publicly advocating on their behalf. As a community of practice, the collaborative offers community, education, and care to those who materially and spiritually serve the homeless.

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