

**Policy for Use of USS Facilities to address the Sacramento homeless crisis - Approved by the USS Board of Trustees
11/17/22**

Policy - The Social Justice Coordinating Committee and USS staff will **review** proposed USS partnerships with agencies and organizations in the Sacramento area that are providing services to the unhoused. The USS Board has **approval** authority for the partnerships. Partnerships will need to follow the guidelines as created by the Homelessness Resource Task Force and be aligned with UU values.

Guidelines for use of USS Facilities to address the Sacramento homeless crisis

All programs serving the unhoused will be:

1. in-line with the USS Mission Statement and our Strategic Plan
 - a. USS Mission Statement - We come together to deepen our lives and be a force for healing in the world
 - b. Strategic Plan - Goal 2: Increase our presence and identity in the larger community by living our mission of being a force for healing in the world
 - i. Goal 2 Action Plan: #3. Deepen our commitment to support unhoused persons
 1. Increase political activity including presence at city and county governance meetings
 2. Explore partnerships with local organizations such as Homeless Area Resource Team and Winter Shelter
2. Adhere to the following **Guiding Principles**
 - a. Balance the needs of unhoused guests with that of the staff, church community, neighbors and those who are renting our facilities. The Social Justice Coordinating Committee and Staff will assess:
 - i. The number of individuals we can help at a time
 - ii. Where the individuals will be physically located
 - iii. Length of time individuals will be located at USS
 - iv. Availability of adequate hygiene facilities
 - v. Types of partnerships: Parking Lot as a Safe Place Site, Warming/Cooling Center, Emergency Shelter, Respite
 - b. Work in partnership with the county and other agencies/community based organizations
 - i. To adequately meet the unhoused in a meaningful way USS will look to partner with groups that have knowledge and resources and whose values are aligned with USS.
 - c. Strive for clarity of authority and responsibility
 - i. Clearly written agreements with our partnering organization
 - ii. Clearly written roles and responsibilities for USS staff and volunteers
 - d. Ensure to the best of our ability the physical safety of guests, volunteers, and staff.
 - i. Security - create a security plan that ensures safety, but is cost effective and manageable
 - e. Be good stewards of our property and the environment
 - i. Insurance - will be provided either the USS policy or the program partner
 - f. Challenge ourselves by practicing openness to discomfort and to accepting discomfort from our neighbors
 - g. Keep the congregation and neighbors informed regarding policies, current programs and possible future programs
 - h. Work to find balance between guest privacy and transparency
 - i. Strive to develop a sense of kinship between the unhoused guests and USS members and friends.