



# Affordable Housing

Our Faith Our Vote: Issue Education Resource

## Where does the UCC Stand on Affordable Housing?

The United Church of Christ has long taught that housing is not just a personal concern, but a matter of faith, justice, and public responsibility. The UCC General Synod has repeatedly affirmed that every person deserves safe, stable, and affordable housing as part of God's vision for human dignity—a vision that calls us to center those who are most often pushed to the margins and denied full access to stable housing and opportunity, including people who are undocumented, formerly incarcerated, LGBTQ+, living with disabilities, or experiencing substance use disorders.

As far back as 1973, the General Synod declared that access to decent housing is a basic human right, and in 1983 it called UCC congregations to respond faithfully to the growing crisis of homelessness. Today, that call is lived out through ministries across the country, including through the UCC's Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM), which support a national network providing more than 21,000 affordable housing units within over 34,000 residential units nationwide. Together, these ministries demonstrate that faith-based action is not only compassionate, but essential to meeting the scale of today's housing crisis.

Yet the need far exceeds what nonprofit and faith-based providers can meet alone. Rising housing costs, persistent homelessness, and widening racial and economic disparities reveal systemic challenges that demand bold public policy solutions. The UCC has made clear that faithful service must be paired with faithful advocacy. A 2013 General Synod resolution urged UCC members to support policies that expand affordable housing and address the root causes of housing instability. CHHSM and its member ministries embody this commitment, not only by building and preserving housing, but by advocating for the resources, protections, and structural changes necessary to ensure that these efforts can grow. Across more than 400 programs and communities nationwide, this ministry reaches hundreds of thousands of people each year, underscoring both its impact and urgent need for increased, sustained public investment.

For policymakers, the question is no longer whether the need exists, but how you will respond. People of faith across the United Church of Christ are asking elected leaders to take concrete, measurable steps to expand access to affordable housing, confront inequities, and ensure that safe, stable housing is within reach for all. We believe that housing policy is moral policy—and that the decisions made today will shape the well-being, dignity, and opportunity of our communities for generations to come.

## Want to learn more?

Contact Jamar Doyle, CEO, Council on Health and Human Service Ministries at [doylej@chhsm.org](mailto:doylej@chhsm.org)

## Questions for Candidates:

- What specific policies will you support to increase the availability of safe, affordable housing in our community, especially for low-income families and those experiencing homelessness?
- How will you address the racial and economic disparities in housing access, including the lasting impacts of discrimination and disinvestment?
- Do you support increased public investment in affordable housing and tenant protections, and how will you work to ensure that everyone, regardless of income, has access to stable housing?

## Prayer

*Gracious and loving God, you are our shelter in every storm and the firm foundation of our faith. We lift before you all who are without safe and stable housing: those who are unhoused, those at risk of losing their homes, and those living in uncertainty or fear. Stir in us, as your people in the United Church of Christ, a deeper compassion and a holy restlessness that refuses to accept a world where any of your children are without a place to call home. In the name of Jesus Christ our sibling. Amen.*

## Take Additional Action

- Connect with the [Council for Health and Human Service Ministries](#)
- Engage with [Leading Age's Advocacy Center: 2026 Policy Platform](#)
- Engage with [Housing Not Handcuffs](#)