

INFORMATION DOCUMENT FOR UNITED CHURCH FAITH COMMUNITIES

UPDATED OCTOBER 2, 2020



United We Stand

The EOORC Campaign for Veterans' House



CONSEIL RÉGIONAL
DE L'OUTAOUAIS ET DE L'EST DE L'ONTARIO
EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS
REGIONAL COUNCIL



MULTIFAITH
Housing Initiative



United We Stand

THE EOORC CAMPAIGN FOR VETERANS' HOUSE



LETTER FROM THE MHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' EOORC REPRESENTATIVE

Hello, my name is Sue Smarkala. I am the Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council representative on the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) Board of Directors. It is my privilege to tell you about the major fundraising campaign on which our region, EOORC, has decided to embark – [United We Stand: the EOORC Campaign for Veterans' House](#).



Many of our congregations are well aware of MHI's work to provide affordable housing. Many are also familiar with the current initiative to house veterans who are living rough on the streets of Ottawa – [Veterans' House: The Andy Carswell Building](#). Veterans' House is MHI's fifth housing community and – when complete – will be a 40-unit supportive housing residence for veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Veterans' House residents will have access to mental health and addiction services, a dog park for training their service dogs, social activities and programming, and plenty of communal space to allow for collaboration and community building. Construction on Veterans' House is scheduled to wrap up in January 2021.

Veterans' House cost \$11.5M to build; MHI has approximately \$2M yet to raise. We are that close! At the October 16-17, 2020 EOORC Annual General Meeting, via Zoom, a motion will be presented to propose a region-wide goal for Veterans' House fundraising. It will be a challenging goal, similar to the fundraising goal of \$100K set for the Haven – the MHI build prior to Veterans' House, which opened in 2017. Each congregation will decide if, when, and how they want to contribute to that Veterans' House goal.

There are two ways that EOOR communities of faith can get involved with United We Stand, if they so choose:

- 1) **Select a Sunday to host the United We Stand Sunday Service.** Communities of faith are encouraged to set aside a Sunday anytime between now and June 2021 to host the [United We Stand Sunday Service](#). An EOORC team and Multifaith Housing staff have developed a COVID-proof, special Sunday service package to promote Veterans' House fundraising. Congregations are encouraged to use as many or as

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few of these premade components as they wish to create their own service. You may also wish to use the service as a method to raise funds for Veterans' House.

- 2) **Engage in additional fundraising.** Congregation members may wish to make a personal donation to Veterans' House. Communities of faith may also wish to run fundraisers in their own communities/raise funds in whatever manner they wish to support Veterans' House.

There are more than 80 veterans sleeping rough in Canada's capital on any given night. Ottawa remains a well-known crossroads point for transient populations, and Veterans' House partner Soldiers Helping Soldiers has documented hundreds of homeless veterans passing through the city. United We Stand: the EOORC Campaign for Veterans' House is the very first cross-regional project for EOORC. Through United We Stand, we hope United Church congregants can be the hands of Christ and make a difference in the lives of veterans in the Eastern Ontario area.

In addition, EOORC's membership in MHI provides a new opportunity to make affordable housing a reality. Currently, 18 United Church organizations are members of MHI. All churches in the EOORC are welcome to join MHI on its mission to provide safe, affordable housing for those who need it, and help end the housing crisis. For more information on becoming a member, visit www.multifaithhousing.ca/members.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about United We Stand. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the MHI office.

Sincerely,

Sue Smarkala
MHI Board of Directors EOORC representative

WHY CHOOSE THE NAME 'UNITED WE STAND'?

- **"United"** references, of course, the United Church.
- **"United we stand"** is a New Testament reference - 1 Corinthians 6:17.
- **"United We Stand"** has a military/war effort connotation (most famous being Winston Churchill's famous line "United we stand, divided we fall" from his June 1941 radio speech) a good association for a veterans-focused campaign and society's collective effort to soldier on during COVID-19!

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ABOUT THE UNITED WE STAND SUNDAY SERVICE

We offer [this service](#) as an aid to you and your congregation to learn more about Multifaith Housing Initiative and the current build of Veterans' House and as a way to raise funds for Veterans' House. All donations are very much appreciated. In this time of COVID, we recognize that allotment of funds is challenging. We provide it as a template and encourage you to make it your own.

There are many places in the service for congregation participation. For instance, if you have folks in your congregation who have ties to the military and/or who are veterans, you may want to ask them to participate.

The timing of this service is the choice of the minister/congregation. Some ideas:

- Around Remembrance Day/on Remembrance Day
- December 6 is designated by UCC as Peace Sunday
- At a service dedicated to social outreach

The use of this service for VH fundraising is completely at your discretion. We ask that it be used any time between now and June 2021.

If you use this service to raise funds for VH, and we hope you do, it is strongly recommended that your congregation knows several weeks in advance that the offering or donations at or following this service are a donation towards Veterans' House.

- **If you are meeting together face to face:** MHI can provide donation envelopes; please contact MHI for these. It is anticipated that each church will count the donations toward the parishioners' offering number and, in that way, the donations will be credited within the congregant's charitable receipts provided by the church. The total MHI donation would then be forwarded to MHI.
- **If your congregation meets via the internet:** MHI is working on a special online donation system for United We Stand that will allow each parish to donate directly to MHI online. This system is expected to be up and running mid-October at multifaithhousing.ca/united-we-stand. However, **until the United We Stand donation system is up and running, please refrain from giving to United We Stand online via**

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MHI's website/Canada Helps because it will not be possible to track contributions toward United We Stand. Instead, in the interim, please donate through traditional methods:

- By cheque: Individual cheques can be made out to Multifaith Housing Initiative. Please include "United We Stand" and your church on the subject line.
- By phone: You can make donations by credit card over the phone by calling 613-686-1825.
- In-person visit: Call 613-686-1825 to arrange for a drop-off appointment at 404 McArthur Avenue.



Veterans' House, Multifaith Housing Initiative's fifth housing community, is scheduled to wrap up construction in January 2021.

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CHURCH INFORMATION DOCUMENT







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SERVICE FOR MHI VETERANS' HOUSE: COMPONENTS AVAILABLE

VIDEO/TEXT	INFO
	<p>Video section title: Welcome</p> <p>Run time: 1:21</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-Welcome</p> <p>Description: A warm welcome by Rev. David Sherwin of Zion-Memorial United Church.</p>
	<p>Video section title: Music - "When the Pipers Play"</p> <p>Run time: 1:15</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-Music-WhenThePipersPlay</p> <p>Description: Gathering music.</p>
	<p>Video section title: Children's Time</p> <p>Run time: 2:23 (English) & 2:23 (French)</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-ChildrensTime (English) & UWS-FR-ChildrensTime (French)</p> <p>Description: Sandra Smith, Ventriloquist/Children's Time Leader, Barrhaven United Church, has a conversation with her puppet, Louie, about veterans and why they need a home.</p>
	<p>Video section title: Service Reflection/Sermon</p> <p>Run time: 10:32</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-Sermon</p> <p>Description: Rev. Capt. Andrew Love of Dominion Chalmers United Church presenting his sermon "Healing from the Shrapnel of the Soul" and a prayer.</p> <p>Text: Healing from the Shrapnel of the Soul</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-SermonTranscript</p> <p>Description: The text of Rev. Capt. Andrew Love's reflection.</p>

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 <p>REV. DR. MAJ. (RET'D) STEVE MOORE SOUTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH</p>	<p>Video section title: Prayer of Reflection Run time: 2:12 File name: UWS-ENG-PrayerOfReflection Description: Prayer after Reflection/Sermon by Rev. Dr. Maj. (ret'd) Steve Moore of Southminster United Church</p>
	<p>Text: Prayer of Reflection File name: UWS-ENG-PrayerOfReflectionTranscript Description: The text of Rev. Steve Moore's reflection.</p>
 <p>RABBI REUVEN BULKA Honorary Chaplain, Barrington Command, Royal Canadian Legion</p>	<p>Video section title: Multifaith Prayer for Veterans' House Run time: 2:37 File name: UWS-ENG-MultifaithPrayer Description: A multifaith prayer from Christian, Muslim and Jewish faith leaders. French version available for Oct. 15, 2020. The prayer will be subtitled in French.</p> <p>Text: Multifaith Prayer for Veterans' House File name: UWS-ENG-MultifaithPrayerTranscript Description: The text of the Multifaith Prayer for Veterans.= French version available for Oct. 15, 2020.</p>
 <p>MARY BYFORD PIPER, ALMONTÉ LEGION PIPE BAND</p>	<p>Video section title: Music - "Amazing Grace" / "Going Home" Run time: 1:15 File name: UWS-ENG-Music-WhenThePipersPlay Description: Postlude</p>
 <p>SUZANNE LE MHI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</p>	<p>Video section title: All About United We Stand Run time: TBA (estimated time: 12 mins) File name: TBA Description: A mini-documentary about United We Stand: the EOORC Campaign for Veterans' House and veterans homelessness in Ottawa. To be released mid October (week of October 18).</p>

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	<p>Text: Service Bulletin (English)</p> <p>File name: UWS-ENG-ServiceBulletin</p> <p>Description: A full service, in English, is presented in the format of a standard United Church service. Those pieces, which are available by video and text are noted. Hymn selections are offered.</p> <p>Bilingual version available Oct. 15, 2020. The full bilingual service will be presented in the format of a standard United Church service. Those pieces, which are available by video, text, will noted.</p>
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Download full United We Stand Sunday Service [here](#).