

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY

St John the Evangelist

INTRODUCTION

The St John's Affordable Housing Committee has presented a series of thoughtful summaries on some key issues related to affordable housing. You have read these multi-coloured inserts to the Sunday bulletin. Now we want your opinions and your vision.

If you know someone whose walls are "closing in" because of rent increases, if students, immigrants, refugees, even members of your family desperate for affordable housing are known to you - then you are involved. Even if you don't know someone, are you concerned about the affordable housing crisis? Help us identify how St John's can be part of the solution by spending a few minutes to respond to this survey.

POTENTIAL INITIATIVES

1. Shared accommodation: There are some people who would like to have company or earn extra income by sharing their home with a suitable person (e.g. a student). By housing a student, affordable housing space is freed up for others in need. Do you know of anyone who would be willing to house a student or other low income person to assist in alleviating the affordable housing shortage?

Yes No Maybe

Would you be willing to consider housing someone?

Yes No Maybe

Do you know anyone who could volunteer to help match a potential tenant with available housing.

Yes No Maybe

Would you be able to help match a potential tenant with available housing?

Yes No Maybe

2. Secondary dwelling units: A by-law to allow secondary dwelling units across the city is being proposed in the City of Ottawa's Official Plan. For those with excess space but who require their own privacy, creating private secondary dwelling units within their

own home can be an attractive option. It can provide both added income and privacy. The cost of creating private secondary dwelling units is much less expensive than creating a new apartment.

Do you know anyone who would be willing to build a secondary dwelling unit to house a person or family in need of affordable housing?

Yes No Maybe

Are you able to consider this option, assuming you receive technical advice to do the conversion?

Yes No Maybe

Are you able to consider this option, assuming you receive technical advice and financial support to do the conversion?

Yes No Maybe

3. Purchasing and converting or upgrading existing housing: This is much less expensive than building new housing. Should St John's consider providing financial assistance to purchase and renovate existing housing (duplex to multi-unit) to use for affordable housing?

Yes No Maybe

Would you be willing to financially support such a purchase?

Yes No Maybe

Should St John's own the building or should we support those who have an organization in place to own houses (e.g. the Ottawa Mennonite Church).

Yes No Maybe

If we are the owners, for whom should we target this housing? (This would affect what we might buy.)

Singles Families Seniors Refugees

Other (e.g.)

Would you be able to provide time and/or talent in converting and/or managing this property?

Yes No Maybe

If yes, specify how:

ADVOCACY

Should St John’s play an active role in advocating for change in affordable housing policies?

Yes No Maybe

YOUR INVOLVEMENT

How would you envisage your involvement in affordable housing? Circle as many as apply.

- assistance with matching
- technical assistance
- property management
- fund raising
- communications
- advocacy
- administration
- financial contributions
- St John’s Affordable Housing Committee
- other (specify)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Leaving a bequest or a charitable donation in the form of a house, land or money to be used for affordable housing is another option. Is this an option you would consider?

House: Yes No Maybe

Land: Yes No Maybe

Money: Yes No Maybe

Should St John’s allocate a certain amount annually to affordable housing? If so, how much?

\$1,000 \$5,000 \$10,000 \$20,000 \$30,000 \$50,000

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

According to Canada Mortgage and Housing, the national norm for housing expense (rent and utilities) is 30% of gross household income, leaving the rest for food and other basic necessities. Have you considered what percentage of your household you spend on housing?

Low income persons who spend more than 30% of their gross income on housing may be in need of affordable housing. Do you know anyone (including yourself) in need of affordable housing? If yes, contact Garth or Sharon.

MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE

The Multifaith Housing Initiative was set up by concerned faith community members to respond to the affordable housing crisis in Ottawa and surrounding communities. Its mission statement is: *“The Multifaith Housing Initiative represents many people of faith committed to facilitating the provision of adequate, accessible, and affordable home space for those who otherwise cannot meet their basic needs and to encouraging programs which nurture persons within their communities.”*

The role of the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) is to facilitate action on the part of individual faith communities. St John’s is a faith community member (principal member) of MHI for 2003. Would you be willing to become an individual member (supporting member) of MHI, paying an annual membership fee of \$25 (or more if possible) to support its work?

Yes - \$25 Yes - more than \$25