

**POSITION STATEMENT ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING MEASURES ON THE CALIFORNIA
BALLOT IN NOVEMBER 2024**

(Requires ⅔ vote to pass)

Biblical, Theological and Historical Grounding

The Bible proclaims through the prophets that in God's economy all people will have security, peace and a place to call their own, for, "they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4), the Prophet Isaiah states further that in the new heavens and the new earth God promises for those who love God, God's people shall have their shelter and other basic needs met, for they "shall build houses and live in them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit, they shall not build and another inhabit, they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree so shall the days of my people be." (Isaiah 65:21-22).

Further, in the United Church of Christ, General Synod 29, in 2013, urged UCC members to advocate for funding resources to construct quality, affordable housing.

TEXT OF THE MOTION:

WHEREAS, in California today we live far from this promise, with at least 181,000 of our neighbors living without adequate shelter, fully 25% of the homeless population of the United States, many on our streets,

WHEREAS, in California there is a dire need for affordable housing, with the state producing only 14% of the needed 220,000 homes for low and moderate income families each year, and

WHEREAS, across California, there are tens of thousands of affordable homes ready for construction in hundreds of developments (33,000 homes in the Bay Area alone) just waiting for the final funding needed to enable construction, and

WHEREAS, voters across California will have an opportunity to vote to support funding for quality affordable housing construction through a \$10-20 billion bond in the 9 Bay Area counties and a \$10 billion bond in other areas of the state,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ endorses these upcoming ballot measures for affordable housing funding and encourages all members and friends to prayerfully consider supporting these measures this Fall in an effort to respond to God's call to meet the need of all of our neighbors for dignified, safe shelter so that all God's people can thrive.

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