

COMMUNITY COVENANT 2011-2012

OF

BETHANY PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

AN INITIATIVE OF

URBAN MISSION CABINET

&

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

Adopted January 10, 2012

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this community shall be Bethany Presbyterian House of Hospitality ("Bethany House 2011-2012").

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall be to serve as a place of hospitality and intentional community for young adult urban volunteers who are committed to serving the public and promoting justice, creatively partnering and building relationships with their neighbors in the greater Trenton area, living in a simple and sustainable way, and encouraging others by example. Bethany House 2011-2012 is established by and under the authority of the Urban Mission Cabinet ("Urban Mission Cabinet") of the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

ARTICLE III

LOCATION

Bethany House 2011-2012 shall be located at **REDACTED** Trenton, New Jersey.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Bethany House 2011-2012 is made up of Amy Chung, Jamie Hollerith, Erin Maryrose Murphy, and Elizabeth Newman (collectively, the "Founding Members"), who subscribe to and agree to support the aims and purposes of Bethany House 2011-2012 and to be governed by this Community Covenant, and any individual(s) who may be selected to join Bethany House 2011-2012 by Urban Mission Cabinet, with input from the Founding Members, and also subscribe to and agree to support the aims and purposes of Bethany House 2011-2012 and to be governed by this Community Covenant.

ARTICLE V

DURATION

The duration of Bethany House 2011-2012 for each member shall be the term of that member's service commitment or one year, whichever is less. Renewals shall be considered only on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE VI

RULES FOR COMMUNITY LIFE

A. Aspects of Community Life

1. **Security.** The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall be responsible for keeping Bethany House 2011-2012 secure. They shall keep the front and back doors locked at all times and the front porch light on at all times. They shall not share their keys with anyone who is not a member of Bethany House 2011-2012 or have any copies of their keys made. They shall establish a protocol for interacting with any strangers to Bethany House 2011-2012, including but not limited to homeless persons.

2. **Food and Drink.** The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall pool resources to pay for communal food and household supplies, which shall be purchased according to a shopping list to be mutually agreed and/or as necessary. Each member shall contribute a mutually agreed amount to a common fund on a monthly basis and shall be entitled to take money from the common fund to pay for communal food and household supplies. Any member who purchases food with personal funds for personal consumption shall write his/her name on the box/container to identify the food as being for personal consumption. The members shall have dinner together every Monday starting at 6 p.m. or a mutually agreed day and time. The food for these dinners shall be cooked collectively. During these dinners (each a "House Meeting"), the members shall discuss matters of community life. The members shall be free to have guests for all meals except for House Meetings.

3. **Daily Life.** The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall take turns doing the following chores: (a) doing dishes and/or loading the dishwasher and cleaning the kitchen after

meals, (b) taking out the trash, recycling, and compost, (c) cleaning the common areas of Bethany House 2011-2012 (that is, the living room, the dining room, and the hallways), and (d) cleaning the bathroom upstairs and the half-bathroom downstairs. These chores shall be rotated every week according to a chart to be posted in the kitchen.

4. **Guests and Significant Others.** The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall be free to have overnight guests, provided that no guest stays longer than seven consecutive nights absent extraordinary circumstances, which shall be determined by the other members at a specially scheduled House Meeting. The significant other of a member shall be allowed to stay overnight, provided that he/she stays no longer than seven consecutive nights absent extraordinary circumstances, which shall be determined by the other members at a specially scheduled House Meeting.

5. **Other Involvements.** The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall be free to stay elsewhere according to their personal schedules. A member shall inform at least one other member when he/she expects to be away from Bethany House 2011-2012 for the night.

B. Faith Formation, Spiritual Exploration, and Vocational Discernment

1. The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall make it a priority to have dinner together and participate in an Evening Vespers service or similar spiritual practice with Reverend Karen Hernández-Gransen ("Pastor Karen"), Reverend Nina Reeder ("Pastor Nina"), and/or Elder Jacque Howard ("Elder Jacque") and others every Thursday starting at 6 p.m. or a mutually agreed day and time. Any absence shall be communicated to Pastor Karen at least two weeks in advance, as circumstances allow. These dinners shall be limited to a maximum of fifteen attendees absent extraordinary circumstances, which shall be determined by Pastor Karen. The food for these dinners shall be provided by Urban Mission Cabinet and other New Brunswick Presbytery member churches, as arranged by Pastor Karen. Any member inviting a guest to these dinners shall give advance notice to Pastor Karen.

2. The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall join in a community service project at least once every month. These community service projects shall be arranged by the members and/or Pastor Karen, Pastor Nina, and/or Elder Jacque, who shall try to inform the members of their expected responsibilities in advance.

3. Each member of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall meet with Pastor Karen privately at least once every month to discuss his/her faith formation, spiritual exploration, and vocational discernment.

4. The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall consider attending a spiritual retreat together during the coming year. This retreat shall be arranged by Pastor Karen, Pastor Nina, and/or Elder Jacque.

5. Pastor Karen, Pastor Nina, and/or Elder Jacque shall serve as ongoing resources for the spiritual aspect of community life at Bethany House 2011-2012.

C. Engaging Other Volunteer Programs

The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall consider sponsoring events with other volunteer programs such as VISTA.

D. Facing Challenges

The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 shall not wait to communicate when they feel that community life is not going well. For example, if any member feels that another member is not living up to the community's expectations, he/she shall meet with the other member privately and try to resolve the matter. If the members cannot resolve the matter privately, they shall raise the matter at the next House Meeting. If the matter cannot be resolved at the House Meeting, the members shall discuss the matter with Pastor Karen, who shall make a final determination to resolve the matter in consultation with Pastor Nina and Elder Jacque.

E. Removing Members Who Do Not Abide by this Community Covenant

1. Any member of Bethany House 2011-2012 who does not abide by this Community Covenant may be asked to leave the community. The removal process shall begin with a concern shared by one member at a regular House Meeting that another member is not abiding by this Community Covenant. If the concern cannot be resolved by the members at the House Meeting, Pastor Karen shall facilitate a group discussion at a specially scheduled House Meeting. If the concern cannot be resolved at the specially scheduled House Meeting, Pastor Karen shall confer with Pastor Nina and Elder Jacque. Their determination whether the member shall be asked to leave the community shall be final.

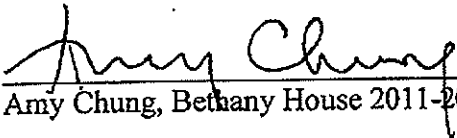
2. The members of Bethany House 2011-2012 and Urban Mission Cabinet will offer to help any member who is asked to leave the community.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

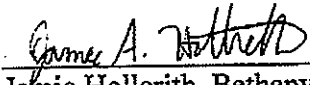
This Community Covenant may be amended at a House Meeting by a unanimous vote of the members of Bethany House 2011-2012, in consultation with Pastor Karen, Pastor Nina, and Elder Jacque.

Signed by:




Amy Chung, Bethany House 2011-2012 Resident

1/10/12
Date

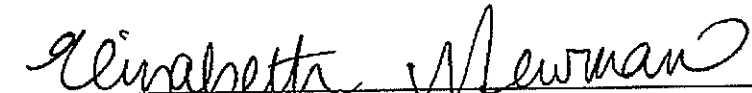


Jamie Hollerith, Bethany House 2011-2012 Resident

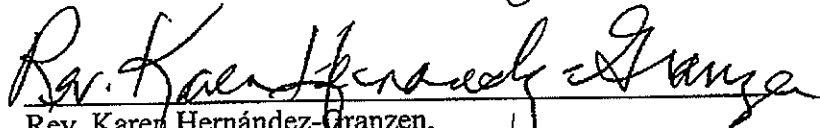
2/4/12
Date


Erin Murphy, Bethany House 2011-2012 Resident

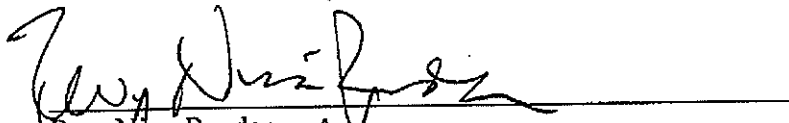
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Elizabeth Newman, Bethany House 2011-2012 Resident

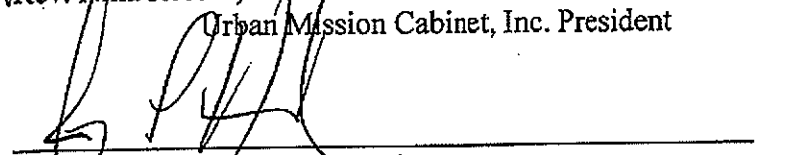
1/10/12
Date


Rev. Karen Hernández-Granzen,
Bethany House Coordinator/Chaplain

1/10/12
Date


Rev. Nina Reeder,
Urban Mission Cabinet, Inc. President

1/10/12
Date


Elder Jacque Howard,
Urban Mission Cabinet, Inc. Executive Director

1.10.12
Date