

DRAFT Motion

Supporting Vancouver's Faith Communities

WHEREAS Vancouver's mission is "To create a great city of communities, which cares about its people, its environment, and the opportunities to live, work and prosper"; and

WHEREAS a sustainable city is achieved through community participation and the reconciliation of factors which affect short and long term economic, social, and environmental well-being; and

WHEREAS the three components of a socially sustainable community are that the basic needs of residents are met, that individual capacity is maintained and enhanced, and that community capacity is maintained and enhanced; and

WHEREAS faith communities of all persuasions provide a range of programs and activities which support social sustainability, including assistance with basic needs, such as meals and temporary shelter to marginalized members of the community, as well as activities which support individual and community capacity; and

WHEREAS faith communities have a longstanding, historical role in providing for the basic needs of marginalized members of the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be instructed to include in the administration of land use policies, acknowledgement that provision of services to marginalized people is a service customarily provided by faith communities, and as such, that these services, where provided in conjunction with an existing centre of a faith community's use, will not require special land use permits, other than those required to ensure adequate fire and life safety provisions.