



**RICHMOND BEACH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Peace, respect, and love . . . in action

June 23, 2017

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you know, over the past several years, Richmond Beach Congregational Church, UCC, has been called to help those among us who have fallen on hard times. This has led us to becoming involved in caring for the residents of Camp United We Stand homeless encampment. They were on our property in March-May of 2015 and August-November 2016. We are planning to invite them to return and stay on the same property for three months, from mid-August through mid-November. The camp is currently at Haller Lake United Methodist Church and there are about 33 residents. Members would welcome your visit to the camp to learn more about homelessness.

This will be the last opportunity for our Church to host this camp because the property is in the process of being sold. We expect the closing to occur by the end of the year and the developer will be putting 4 new houses on the site. A public meeting will be held by the developer in the future to describe the plans for the project.

Camp United We Stand serves the homeless who are in transition. Many camp residents are employed. They are focused on getting into housing. They have a record of being good tenants, and the residents conduct themselves adhering to a strong code of conduct, policing the properties where they stay, and being good neighbors. According to Camp United We Stand policies the encampment is limited to 35 people or less. The layout and use of the property will be similar to their previous encampment.

On Tuesday, July 11th, at 7:00 pm, we will hold a meeting in the basement hall at Richmond Beach Congregational Church to discuss our plans to host Camp United We Stand. You are invited to come and learn more about the camp and to ask any questions you may have regarding their stay with us. We look forward to sharing the details of this project with you and will inform the city of any concerns that are brought forward. Our address is 1512 NW 195th St, Shoreline. The address of the house where the encampment will be is 19545 15th NW. You are also welcome to call our office at 206-542-7477 with any questions you may have or email us at office@rbccucc.org.

Sincerely,

John Thielke
Church Board of Trustees