



St James Episcopal Church  
434 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220  
920.684.8256 mysjec.com info@mysjec.com

The Rev'd Diane M Murray, *Rector*  
dianemarie.murray@gmail.com  
mobile: 920.860.5152

2022 Vestry (*Church Council*): Chris Dee Eggert-Rosenthal (*Senior Warden*);  
Mary Green (*Junior Warden*); Nick Doszkewycz (*Vestryperson*); Joan Estes (*Vestryperson*);  
Tony Karl (*Vestryperson & Clerk*); Linda Molitor (*Treasurer*)

---

August 1, 2022

Dear City of Manitowoc Plan Commission, Common Council, and others it may concern,

St James Episcopal Church is pleased to stand in support of the Manitowoc Warming Shelter currently being developed to be housed at First Presbyterian Church.

Manitowoc is blessed by facilities like Hope House, The Haven, and InCourage, which provide wonderful support to those who meet specific criteria to be part of their programs. There are, unfortunately, those in our community who still fall through the cracks. The lack of drop-in, low-barrier accommodations during harsh weather is heartbreakingly evident each year when persons affected by homelessness end up ill, injured, or dead due to lack of adequate shelter in our county.

Our neighbors across the street at First Presbyterian have been providing wonderful services to Manitowoc through their Community Dinners program for well over a decade, as well as other projects and programs. The past few years they have been part of an ecumenical conversation around providing a seasonal shelter. We are grateful for their willingness to take the lead in offering their building as the initial site for this valuable program. In addition to a safe bed for the night, the proposed Manitowoc Warming Shelter is planning to also provide nutritious meals and other support for basic human needs.

There is much stigma surrounding homelessness, but it is a circumstance that is just one crisis away for any of us. As people of faith, we are called to love, welcome, and care for our neighbors. Our neighbors are all who we encounter in our community, including those experiencing homelessness.

Pastor Matt Sauer and the steering committee have already worked hard to coordinate a variety of agencies and partners to help support this. Our congregation at St James Episcopal Church has been contributing financially and some will be giving their time as volunteers once the shelter is operating. Our congregation has witnessed throughout the decades how small seeds planted by caring groups and individuals can blossom into wonderful community programs that make all of our lives better.

We offer our fervent support for the Manitowoc Warming Shelter and ask you to support the steps necessary to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

The Vestry of St James Episcopal Church, Manitowoc

Mary Green  
Tony Karl  
Joan Estes  
Nick Doszkewycz

Rev. Diane M Murray  
Chris Eggert-Rosenthal  
Linda Molitor