



**Mount Vernon
Unitarian Church**
Unitarian Universalist

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Re: Penn Daw Fire House, and Emergency and Supportive House

The Mission of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church is to: Support one another on our spiritual journeys, work for justice, care for the earth, and build the common good." We created this mission on the broader Unitarian Universalist Principle of Inherent Worth and Dignity of every Person. With this as our guide, as are committed to care for all our neighbors in the Route One area who experience periods of homelessness. We have a long-established commitment to ensuring fair and equitable housing is offered via organizations such as VIC-HOP.

We believe the central location of 2801 Beacon Hill Road for a new shelter, co-located with the Penn Daw Fire House, is a good location due to accessibility to resources and transportation. Therefore, we support the choice by Fairfax County. Given the urgent need to replace the Kennedy Shelter, we believe a decision needs to be made quickly because the guests at the current Kennedy Shelter are needlessly suffering. The needs of the homeless must be held as a priority. We believe any attempt to ostracize, fear or judge those who do not have permanent housing is misplaced. We invite the surrounding community to please remember every person has inherent worth, and deserves to be treated with dignity.

Sincerely,

Kate R. Walker

Member, Unitarian
Universalist Association

