

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Faith Leaders Present \$1.785M to Nonprofits Addressing Affordable Housing

Group hopes to inspire others to join effort and raise \$3-6M by yearend

St. Louis, Missouri – Nine local faith leaders gathered today at The Hub – Tabernacle Church, 3000 Prairie Ave., to present \$1.785 million to Hearts Hands & Homes, an ecumenical Christian housing collaborative that provide services to disenfranchised families in the region through affordable rental units; wraparound social services to support stable housing; and first-time homeownership programs.

The faith leaders, who in September of 2021 began meeting regularly and dubbed themselves the [Oikos Group](#), aim “to unite hearts and hands to rebuild St. Louis, in the hope that that their partnership would be an ecumenical witness to Christian faith, love of neighbor and a model for collaboration across dividing lines.”

The group has set a 2023 goal to help raise \$3-6 million for Hearts Hands & Homes. Oikos members and their affiliated churches today committed the first \$1.785 million and now are encouraging other groups and individuals to donate to help address the affordable housing gap in St. Louis.

The Hearts Hands & Homes agencies:

- Catholic Charities – Pathways to Progress
- FT Holdings
- Lutheran Development Group
- Tabernacle Community Development Corp.
- The FAM
- St. Joseph Housing Initiative

Oikos members:

- Pastor Darren Casper, St. Louis Metro
- Reverend Jeff Cloeter, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
- Pastor Greg Holder, The Crossing Church
- Bishop Michael Jones, Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- Pastor Brent Roam, One Family Church
- Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis
- Reverend Dr. Clay Smith, Central Presbyterian Church
- Reverend Dr. Thurman Williams, Covenant Seminary, New City Fellowship
- Bishop Lawrence Wooten, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of The Church of God in Christ; Pastor, Williams Temple Church of God in Christ

Gifts may be made through any of the Oikos Group member churches or through a dedicated online giving portal administered by the Archdiocese of St. Louis (<https://giving.archstl.org/Product/office-of-ecumenical-and-interreligious-affairs/hearts-hands-homes-oikos-group-project>).

Hearts Hands & Homes is partnering with The Carver Project to present Housing in St. Louis: Building a Hopeful Future, Thursday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 pm, at One Family Church, 4265 Shaw Blvd. Learn more about historical and current housing challenges, why the Church should care, and what is happening to build a more hopeful future. The event is free and open to the public but registration is required: <https://sendmestlouis.org/events/buildingahopefulfuture/>

Learn more about Hearts Hands & Homes agencies and the Oikos Group at <https://www.oikosgroup.org/>.

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Support documents attached to email.