

**From:** [Tom Fisher](#)  
**To:** [\\*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)  
**Subject:** Sacred Settlement Mosaic  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:23:28 PM

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Dear St. Paul City Council members,

As a resident of St. Paul and an advocate for housing for those who are experiencing homelessness, I write in strong support of the "Sacred Settlement" that Mosaic Community Church hopes to build on its land. The private sector cannot build housing inexpensive enough to meet the needs of most people experiencing homelessness and the public sector does not have the funding to build enough conventional housing to meet the large and growing number of people in this situation.

The "community first " approach of Settled.org offers an innovative alternative, engaging faith communities in ways that meet their missions, leveraging the capacities of local congregations to fund and build extremely affordable housing, and recognizing their agency in doing so because of the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act.

Settled.org has developed a model of national significance, based on the research of its executive director, Gabrielle Clowdus, while a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota. The "Sacred Settlement" at Mosaic would be the first built example of this model and it would demonstrate St. Paul's national leadership in addressing the problem of chronic homelessness. I urge you to support this project.

Tom Fisher

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