

MOTION: To authorize the Presbytery's Property and Finance Committee to spend up to \$50,000 to make emergency facility repairs at the Home of Neighborly Services in San Bernardino.

RATIONALE: The Presbytery of Riverside is the legal owner of the property where The Home of Neighborly Services is located at 839 N Mount Vernon Ave., San Bernardino. The mission of The Home of Neighborly Service is to provide a variety of services for youth, adults, seniors and families that promotes, enhances and enriches the quality of life within their diverse community. The Home has been in operation since 1922 but currently it is only able to operate a food distribution program because of extreme financial issues. Recently, Project Fighting Chance (another non-profit) has begun to operate youth centered programs in the back buildings on the property. But all of the programs are "at risk" because of serious facility issues. The rear building has bathrooms but none are working. This creates a safety risk as children attending the after school and evening programs are required to go into the main building for restrooms. And this situation creates other security issues as the building is not occupied during this period. Additionally, one of the bathrooms in the main building is also not functioning. There are also issues involving the kitchen in the main building. Presently, the Health Department will not permit any food preparation – only storage for the food distribution program. One commercial freezer needs immediate repair and we need to ensure that the electrical and plumbing permit full functionality by both groups.

As the building owner, these are permanent improvements that are our responsibility. However, there is a strong possibility that the funds being requested will be reimbursed. The Synod of Southern California and Hawaii recently closed the sale on the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services in Riverside and it appears that a portion or all of the net funds may be given to the Presbytery. If this occurs, our intent will be to repay the funds being requested in this motion and to set up accounts that will provide an income stream for The Home and funding for future capital improvements.