

UrbanMission

Community Partners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 31, 2016

POMONA, CA -- The election of Rev. Stephen Patten as new Chair of the Pomona Coalition of Care Continuum was announced today by City of Pomona officials. Rev. Patten is an officer of the new UrbanMission Community Partners nonprofit organization and also serves as Food Justice Minister for UrbanMission, a United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ church in south Pomona.

A lifelong Pomona resident who recently graduated from Claremont School of Theology with an M.Div. degree, Rev. Patten has been active in the city's coalition to address homelessness.

In his work at the UrbanMission church, he initiated a weekly Open Table meal in 2014 for the community. This program continues to draw 50-100 guests each week for food and fellowship; it is now partnered with Western University of Health Sciences and Tri-City Mental Health Services to carry out a "Seed to Table" health and wellness program.

Rev. Patten has also established UrbanMission as a USDA food pantry, and he and others have begun a "Waste Not Pomona" initiative to gather and distribute unused food from local markets and restaurants that might otherwise go to waste. In addition, he has volunteered part-time as a chaplain for Pomona's Emergency Winter Shelter in recent years.

In his role in the new UrbanMission Community Partners (UMCP) organization, Rev. Patten is part of a team planning to construct and operate housing/gardens for those who are emerging from incarceration and experiencing homelessness.

Rev. Patten also has a 25-year career as an educator, serving at Damien Catholic High School in LaVerne for the past 15 years.

UMCP is a community-focused nonprofit organization, incorporated in 2015, that seeks community wholeness, resilience, and sustainability in the Pomona area by working with families and individuals at risk from poverty, hunger, homelessness, incarceration, and/or inadequate education and health care. It was recently named an "Affiliate Ministry" of the National Benevolent Association, the social services arm of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

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ID#C3857362