



Trinity Cathedral,  
Sacramento



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**July 15, 2020**

**Toni G. Atkins**

Senate President Pro Tem  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Anthony Rendon**

Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Shannon Grove**

Senate Republican Leader  
State Capitol, Room 305  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Marie Waldron**

Assembly Republican Leader  
State Capitol, Suite 3104  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Scott Wiener**

Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Mike Morrell**

Vice Chair, Senate Housing Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3056  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**David Chiu**

Chair, Housing and  
Community Development Committee  
State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Tyler Diep**

Vice Chair, Housing and  
Community Development Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4153  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear California Legislative Leaders:

We, the Deans of four Episcopal Cathedrals across the state of California, write to you out of our Christian concern for the well-being of the most vulnerable of God's children. We lead flagship churches of the Episcopal Church which has about 119,400 members across the state.

We applaud the efforts already taken by state and local government to keep Californians housed and sheltered during the Covid-19 epidemic. We know that additional measures will be needed in the weeks and months to come and advocate for these to be implemented quickly. We also know that it is those communities already hardest hit by endemic racism



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and poverty who face the greatest challenges in these times. Acting to support rent and mortgage relief is a very real and practical way of showing that Black Lives Matter.

The moral imperative for our religious communities is to attend first to people with the least resources and greatest hardship. While we are mindful that tenants, landlords, homeowners, developers, financial institutions, and government are tied together in a web of economic relationships we ask for low income residential tenants and homeowners to be given especial protection. This may be achieved through suspending eviction and foreclosure, granting payment extensions, direct grants, indirect subsidies, incentives, credits, or other means.

We are calling on the members of our congregations and other faith communities to exercise charity and forbearance in their own dealings with tenants, borrowers, and so forth.

The people with the greatest need can't afford to wait for benefit programs that have a long lead time, depend on funding that is not yet available, or have burdensome documentation and qualification procedures. We have been supportive of temporary measures such as suspending legal proceedings as a stopgap measure. As relief efforts extend further into the future, we encourage measures with clear and simple entry points, integration with existing housing access and social service programs, and incentives for lenders, landlords and local agencies to implement in low income neighborhoods without delay.

The personal misfortunes and financial hardship caused by the Covid-19 epidemic will be long lasting. Housing concerns attributed to Covid-19 will converge with the long-term challenge of housing access for all Californians. We encourage initiatives that have the potential to be incorporated into current and emerging solutions to the problems of housing and homelessness in our society.

Thank you for your care and attention to our concerns and to the needs of all Californians. Please feel free to contact the Rev. Canon Dr. Ellen Clark-King, the Vice Dean and Canon of Social Justice at Grace Cathedral, for additional information at (415) 749-6319 or [ellenc@gracecathedral.org](mailto:ellenc@gracecathedral.org).



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/s/

The Very Rev. Canon Daniel Ade, Dean and Rector  
St John's Cathedral, Los Angeles

/s/

The Very Rev. Canon Mark Kowalewski, PhD, Dean and Rector  
St John's Cathedral, Los Angeles

/s/

The Very Rev. Penny Bridges, Dean  
St Paul's Cathedral, San Diego

/s/

The Rev. Julie McCray-Goldsmith, Priest in Charge  
Trinity Cathedral, San Jose

/s/

The Rev. James Richardson, Interim Dean  
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Sacramento

/s/

The Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Young, Dean  
Grace Cathedral, San Francisco