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Fellowship Square Foundation Extends Chaplaincy Program to Meet the Emotional and Spiritual Needs of 700+ Low-Income Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

<u>Fellowship Square Foundation</u> (FSF) announces that it has extended its chaplaincy agreement with Rev. Fred Klein as it strengthens and grows the pastoral care program it offers to meet the emotional, mental and spiritual needs of its 700+ residents across four affordable housing properties in Northern Virginia (Reston and Woodbridge) and Maryland (Upper Marlboro). A faith-based nonprofit, FSF provides affordable housing and an array of support services for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities.

FSF's "<u>Wegener Chaplaincy</u>" program provides a ministry of care and hope to all FSF residents. The Chaplain actively supports each Fellowship House in the following areas:

- Welcome new residents, seek to understand their needs
- Help families understand the aging process
- Visit and socialize with residents in all settings (apartment, hospital, rehab facility, etc.)
- Provide leadership for Bible studies, discussion groups and support groups
- Nurture relationships between faith communities and residents
- Counsel and affirm those in difficulty, distress, experiencing grief or personal concerns
- Support those who are ill or facing death
- Conduct worship services and lead memorial services for residents as requested
- Coordinate services of interfaith groups to meet the spiritual needs of all residents

"Fellowship Square provides housing for some of the most vulnerable in our community: lowincome elderly and people living with disabilities. Ministry and pastoral care are an important part of our offerings," said Fellowship Square Foundation Executive Director Christy Zeitz. "Fellowship Square in Northern Virginia and suburban Maryland is essentially a congregation of our 700+ residents plus their family members and our staff. Pastor Klein expertly and compassionately handles our community's varied chaplaincy needs with his 45+ years of experience as a parish pastor." While FSF has a strong Lutheran history, today it serves the spiritual and religious needs of all of its residents, regardless of faith-orientation. "Fellowship Square is concerned with much more than providing shelter and collecting rent. It is interested in serving the whole person— the physical, social, mental, and spiritual welfare of its residents. I am pleased to continue my work with FSF residents across all of our properties and with residents of all faiths who need more compassion and caring in their lives," said Rev. Fred Klein.

Rev. Klein has been providing ministry to Fellowship House since 2012. He is Pastor Emeritus at Living Savior Lutheran Church in Fairfax Station, VA, where he was the founding pastor of the church and served the congregation for 21 years. He also served at Christ Lutheran Church in Seaford, DE and Ascension Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC.

FSF's Wegener Chaplaincy was established by a gift from the members of Georgetown Lutheran Church in honor of their long-time pastor, Rev. William Wegner's, retirement. The Wegner Chaplaincy at FSF continues to be sustained by donations from individuals and faith communities. While FSF residents receive government-funded subsidies, the Chaplaincy program for residents is supported solely by private donations.

FSF operates four properties designed for independent seniors over age 62 with limited incomes, as well as persons with disabilities. They are: <u>Lake Anne Fellowship House</u> and <u>Hunters Woods Fellowship House</u> (Reston, VA), <u>Lake Ridge Fellowship House</u> (Woodbridge, VA) and <u>Largo Landing Fellowship House</u> (Upper Marlboro, MD). The properties include 667 total units – a range of efficiency, studio and one-bedroom apartments as well as ADA (Americans with Disability Act) accessible apartment units – together with social halls and common areas to build an engaged, supportive community of residents. For more information on FSF housing options, volunteer opportunities or donations, visit <u>www.fellowshipsquare.org</u>.

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