

**Gimme Shelter:  
Understanding and Addressing Housing Insecurity in St. Louis and Beyond**

A series of four discussion sessions (February 8, 15, 29 and March 14) to understand more deeply the scope of housing insecurity in our region, including its intersections with gender, race, and class; the barriers to change, from individual to system-level; and avenues for change, from policy to direct service. The first three sessions will be facilitated by speakers from a variety of the agencies in the St. Louis region addressing housing issues, with suggested reading and short videos made available to participants.

The final session will explore best practices in addressing the needs of housing insecure individuals in all their complexity with particular focus on the potential contributions of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis to meaningful change.

Sessions are scheduled from 6:30-8:00 PM and will be through Zoom.

**Session 1: Housing Insecurity 101**

An exploration of the scope and trends in housing insecurity nationwide and in the St. Louis region, with focus on definition of concepts, the demography of the housing insecure population, overview of the housing policy, and reform landscape (past efforts to ameliorate issues of the unhoused successful and not); current landscape of service agencies and their missions; policy and service gaps.

**Session 2: The Demography of Housing Insecurity**

A statistical analysis of housing insecurity in Saint Louis and how these trends project onto the United States as a whole. This session looks to explore what housing insecurity means beyond being houseless, transient, and poor. Join us in a conversation with ArchCity Defenders as we take a more holistic look at what housing insecurity is.

**Session 3: Barriers to Stability**

This session will explore the difficulties of obtaining and keeping housing in St. Louis with THSTL. We will be looking at data from local housing nonprofits, as well as personal anecdotes. We will be focusing on issues and obstacles that are particular struggles for Queer and Trans individuals to obtain secure housing, both as rentals and homeowners, such as working class poverty, gerrymandering, and time debt.

**Session 4: Best Practices and What Can First UU Do?**

This exciting final session will pull together Gimme Shelter and [other group name] in a unified conversation that will generate clear and manageable goals the First UU community can take with in helping to create housing stability in their communities. What will we create together?

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/ErQkdNZqgmwcsJeUA>