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The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Congratulations on your recent Inaugural and the powerful vision for a better America you laid out for our nation that morning. It was an honor and a privilege to attend the ceremony and to join with you at the National Cathedral the following morning for the National Prayer Service. I am hopeful that during the State of the Union Address that you will further speak to the issue of poverty in our nation.

You told the American people in your Inaugural Address that:

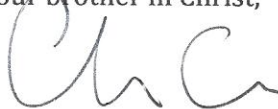
We are true to our creed when a little girl born into the bleakest poverty knows that she has the same chance to succeed as anybody else because she is an American, she is free, and she is equal not just in the eyes of God but also in our own.

In the totality of your remarks you presented a vision of a nation where everyone matters and no one will be left behind. The State of The Union Address provides you with an opportunity to speak more directly to this issue and to offer hope to the tens of millions of Americans living in poverty that they have not and will not be forgotten.

2012 marked the 25th year that I have been involved in one way or another with the fight to end homelessness and poverty. During that time America's homeless population has changed. In 1987, the majority of those living on our streets were single men – people suffering from mental illness, veterans, seniors and the unemployed. Today we see babies living in our shelters – like the Common Cup Family Shelter at Sunnyside Church, one of the two United Methodist congregations I serve in an ecumenical capacity. University Park Church, my other congregation, sees people – again, many of them veterans – sleeping outdoors on our church campus. No one should live a third world life in a first world nation.

I pray that in the midst of difficult financial times that you will find new ways to help alleviate poverty in our nation and speak to this during the State of the Union Address.

Your brother in Christ,



Rev. Chuck Currie
Minister, Sunnyside Church and University Park Church

