

LOAVES AND FISHES BYLAWS

1. About Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes was organized in January of 1998 as a coalition of churches that has partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver to build homes for people in need.

2. Mission Statement of Loaves and Fishes

The mission of Loaves and Fishes is to sponsor as many homes as we can by raising the funds and providing the volunteers to build those homes. By following the theology of the hammer, ¹we pledge to work together in this effort.

3. About Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver builds and sells homes to hard-working people in need of decent and affordable housing. It is an independent affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a non-denominational Christian housing ministry and global home-building movement. Habitat welcomes all people, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, or any other difference, to join us and build homes for people in need.

4. Mission Statement of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver works in partnership with God and people from all walks of life to build decent, affordable homes in which people can live and grow into all that God intends.

¹ Millard Fuller defined the Theology of the Hammer: “We may disagree on all sorts of things, but, thank God, we can agree on the use of a hammer as an instrument to manifest God’s love.

5. Our Name and Logo

Our name was taken from the miracle of the loaves and fishes in Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; and John 6:1-14.



Our logo is a mosaic of that miracle which was recorded in all four Gospels. The mosaic was originally created in front of the altar of the first Byzantine Church on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (350 C.E.) and was still present when the second Byzantine Church (480 C.E.) was built. The church was destroyed in 614 C.E., but the mosaic was preserved. It is the best-preserved mosaic in all of Israel. In 1934 a new church was built over the site. The church is located at Tabgha, which means “Seven Springs.” This is the place where Jesus performed the miracle of feeding more than 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes. Our task is to perform the miracle of building affordable homes for people in need.

6. Organization

Responsibilities for the running of Loaves and Fishes will be divided into the following positions of leadership.

Leadership Committee

- Chairperson: He or she oversees the work of the coalition and serves as liaison to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver.
- Secretary: He or she will take notes at the monthly meetings and distribute them to all of the congregational representatives.
- Treasurer: The treasurer handles the coalition's funds and reports the status at the monthly meetings. He or she collects and keeps track of the money raised by the individual congregations and coordinates payments with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver. The treasurer also coordinates payments for all trips/builds to other affiliates participated in by the coalition.

Board

- Leadership Committee
- Congregational Representatives: Every congregation is expected to send at least one congregational representative to the monthly meetings of Loaves and Fishes. Two representatives would be desirable. These representatives shall keep the Board informed of their church's activities in support of Loaves and Fishes.
- Team Leaders: Four team leaders will work with the volunteer coordinators within each congregation to recruit volunteers for the build.
- Representative to the Building on Faith Committee: He or she will attend the monthly meetings of the Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver Building on Faith Committee and expedite communication between these two groups

The Board shall make decisions by a vote of the members which shall be the action of the Loaves and Fishes Coalition. Any person holding a position on the Leadership Committee may resign at any time upon written notice to the

Board. A replacement for the vacant position will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Board at the next meeting.

Regular meetings of the Board may be held at such places and at such times as the Board may from time to time determine, provided, however, there shall be no less than one meeting every calendar quarter and no more than one meeting every month.

At all meetings of the Board, members entitled to cast votes (one vote per coalition member), shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Meetings of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Board, or in his or her absence by a chairperson designated by the absent Chairperson of the Board. The Secretary shall act as secretary of the meeting, but in his or her absence the chairperson of the meeting may appoint any person to act as secretary of the meeting.

The Board may designate one or more committees. Each committee shall consist of two or more of the members of the Board. Any such committee shall have and may exercise the powers and authority as designated by the Board. The meetings of any such committee shall be governed by the same rules as those set forth herein to govern the meetings of the Board.

7. Coalition Churches

1. Applewood Valley United Methodist Church
2. Calvary Episcopal Church of Golden
3. Columbine United Church of Littleton
4. Eastern Hills Community Church
5. First Plymouth Congregational Church
6. First Presbyterian Church of Golden
7. First United Methodist Church of Golden
8. Grace United Methodist Church in Denver
9. Heritage United Methodist Church
10. Littleton United Methodist Church
11. New Hope Presbyterian Church of Castle Rock
12. Parker United Methodist Church
13. Smoky Hill United Methodist Church
14. University Park United Methodist Church

15. Washington Park United Methodist Church

New congregations may join the coalition at any time. Upon joining the coalition, a certificate of partnership will be given to the new congregation.

8. Responsibilities

Of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver

- To select the partner family.
- To provide a building site for the home within Metro Denver.
- To set the cost of construction materials.
- To provide building plans and a construction schedule for the home.
- To provide a construction supervisor to work with the volunteers.
- To provide training for volunteers on the construction site.
- To ensure that the partner family contributes the required “sweat equity” labor towards the construction of their home or other Habitat homes.
- To sell the home with a zero interest mortgage to the selected partner family.

Of the Congregations of Loaves and Fishes

- To pray for the ministries of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver and the Loaves and Fishes Coalition.
- To send a representative to the monthly meetings of Loaves and Fishes. The monthly meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month in different locations.
- To raise funds and recruit volunteers for the annual build sponsored by Loaves and Fishes.
 - Congregations will raise funds to offset the cost of construction materials by asking for donations, doing fundraisers, and/or putting Loaves and Fishes in the local church budget.

- Realizing that all congregations are different, no amount will be set for each congregation. Congregations are expected to do the best they can.
- Volunteers will be organized in four teams. Every congregation will be assigned to one of the four teams. All volunteers must be at least sixteen years old.
- To participate in the Annual International Day of Prayer and Action for Human Habitat on the first weekend in October.
- To spread the word about the ministries of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver and Loaves and Fishes within the congregation and throughout the community
- To review this commitment annually.

9. Trips to Other Affiliates

Occasionally Loaves and Fishes will plan a trip to assist other Habitat for Humanity Affiliates. These trips are optional. Congregations may participate in them by raising funds and sending volunteers, but they are under no obligation to do so. The primary mission of Loaves and Fishes is to build homes in the Denver Metro area.

10. Volunteers

Loaves and Fishes volunteers are to follow the general rules for volunteers of Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, which are:

- Attend the safety orientation on site.
- All volunteers must be over 16 years of age.
- Volunteers must be over 18 years of age to use power tools and to work on the roof.
- Alcohol and drugs are not permitted on the construction site.
- These rules apply on trips to other affiliates as well as to Metro Denver.

11. Revisions

This document will be reviewed and/or revised no less than annually. The last revision was made on January 8, 2008.