



STATEMENT of REVEREND CARL MAZZA of MEETING GROUND MINISTRY REGARDING SETTLEMENT

The Meeting Ground v. Town of Elkton

“We are joyful that after two years of struggle, we have been successful in being able to do the ministry we have wanted to do all along at Mary Randall Center. We would greatly have preferred to have negotiated a reasonable and fair arrangement with the town in 2007, but we are deeply grateful for the intervention of the ACLU of Maryland and their passion for justice and religious freedom. We are also thankful beyond words to the law firm of Dickstein Shapiro for their long hours of dedicated *pro bono* work in this cause. These all stood firmly with us in faith, as did many churches and individuals, to get us to where we are today. Patience, prayer, and persistence have been our strongest tools in this struggle. In the end we know it is the will of God for everyone now to work together for the common good of the homeless persons we care about so much and for the community we share. All people are confirmed together in the truth spoken by Martin Luther King, Jr. in quoting the abolitionist Theodore Parker: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it always bends toward justice..."

###