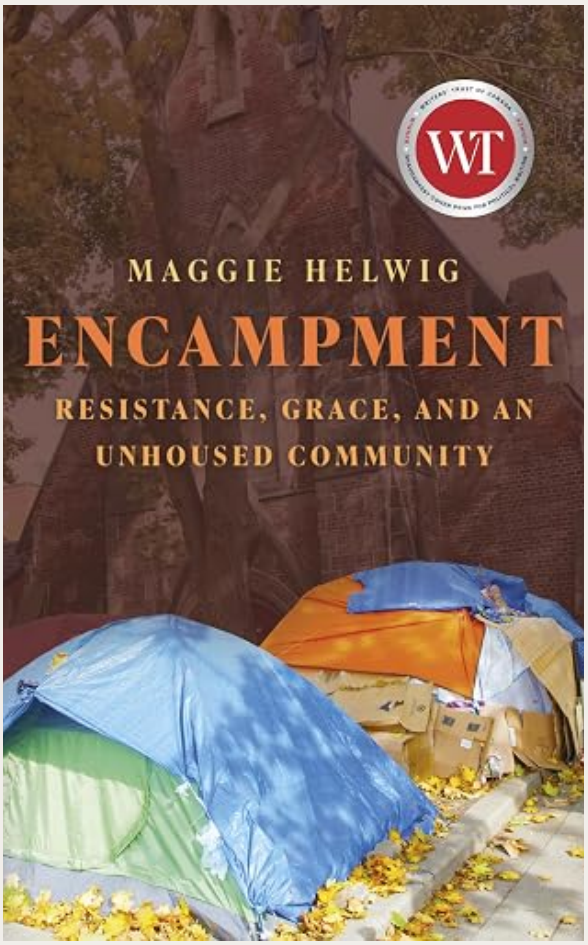
A Conversation on

HOMELESSNESS & COMMUNITY

Diocesan-Wide Book Study

This November,
the Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice invites you to explore the role of faith and churches in the housing and homelessness crisis.



- **Read the book:** on your own or host a book club at your church! Discussion guide below.
- **Join our Diocesan-wide virtual book club:** email encampment.study@allsaintswestboro.com to sign up.
- **Virtual Event:** Join our online conversation with the author, November 30th at 7pm on Zoom (register here)

Diocesan-Wide Book Study: Discussion Guide

Encampment: Resistance, Grace, and an Unhoused Community by Maggie Helwig

Presented by the Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice

1) Reflect on a time you felt displaced or without a safe place to be. Reflect on a time you felt a sense of belonging.
How do these personal experiences shape your reaction when you see unhoused neighbours in your neighborhood or parish area?

2) Maggie Helwig describes community pushback to visible homelessness. How do we balance genuine concerns about safety with the dignity and needs of people experiencing homelessness?

3) How does the experience Maggie Helwig is describing with respect to her neighbourhood in Toronto resonate with you in your own community?

4) In the early chapters, Maggie talks about the history of St. Stephens in the Field, and how it became a place of refuge. What is the history of your own church community? What does it value?

5) In Ottawa, Ontario and Canada, we are seeing rising stigma and anger against visible homelessness. What is our role (as Christians, church communities, and neighbours) in combatting this?

6) What feelings did the book bring forth for you with respect to homelessness and the role of the Church in responding to it?

7) The relocation deadline of Centre 454 in downtown Ottawa has highlighted how precarious spaces of refuge for people experiencing homelessness are. How does reading about the St. Stephen's encampment reframe how you view drop-in centres, shelters, and visible homelessness in your own community?

8) What is something concrete your church community can do to fight for housing justice? What would you need to accomplish this?