**PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Affordable Housing at Bethany Lutheran Church**

**(HRB + BETHANY)**

For many years, Housing Resources Bainbridge (HRB) and Bethany Lutheran Church (Bethany) have been in communications with one another and collaborated about how to address the acute need for and challenge of affordable housing on Bainbridge Island in general and about the possibility of an affordable housing project on Bethany’s 8+ acres of property in particular. The passage of RCW 36.70A.545, providing a legislative mandate for an increased density bonus for affordable housing at churches, and the subsequent adoption of COBI Ordinance 2022-02, as well as the availability of federal ARPA funds, provide a unique opportunity and impetus to move forward the shared vision of Bethany and HRB.

           With this background and their shared vision, HRB and Bethany now commit themselves to move forward and to take steps to define and then formalize their relationship in order in order to plan for and coordinate the development of an affordable housing project on Bethany’s property. Although the type and details of the relationship must be worked out, the purpose of this memo of understanding is to initiate the planning process and to mutually commit to working together to develop an organization and plan in order to realize the shared vision for an affordable housing project at Bethany.

(Approved by the Bethany Congregation Council, January 11,2023)