

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SEATTLE'S UNION GOSPEL MISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HERB PFIFFNER TO RETIRE IN 2009

SEATTLE – January 29, 2009 – Seattle's Union Gospel Mission announced today that Herb Pfiffner, executive director of the Mission since 1989, will be retiring at the end of 2009, capping 20 years of service to the Seattle area. Pfiffner is just the third executive director of the Mission in its 77 years.

Andy Toles, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, expressed appreciation to Pfiffner for his endurance, faithfulness and extraordinary leadership. "With Herb at the helm, Seattle's Union Gospel Mission has grown from a budget of \$3 million in 1989 to more than \$16 million this year – giving the Mission an opportunity to offer hope to thousands of homeless individuals and urban youth."

Pfiffner, 66, long active in the Greater Seattle community and a member of Seattle 4 Rotary club, still has a huge job during his final year with the Mission — managing the transition of leadership; concluding the funding and the opening of Hope Place, 80,681 square foot long-term residence for homeless women and children; and setting the stage for expanding urban youth programs.

"We are concerned about our community and the desperate people who live within it. Our doors are open and ready to offer hope to anyone in need – hope for a brighter future and hope in Jesus," said Pfiffner. "It's my desire to leave the Mission with a faithful leader—faithful to the mission of the Mission, faithful to the call of Jesus, and faithful to the staff and people we serve."

Herb Pfiffner will continue as executive director through December 31, 2009. "The Board of Trustees and the senior management team are grateful that Herb has given us such generous advance notice of his retirement so we can create a seamless leadership transition," said Toles. The Board of Trustees has retained John Pearson Associates, Inc. to facilitate the search. A position profile is available at www.resultsbucket.com. For more information, contact John Pearson at 949.500.0334 or John@JohnPearsonAssociates.com.



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