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For Immediate Release

Urban Ministry Center Executive Director, Dale Mullennix to Retire

Iconic founder of Charlotte's homeless services agency to retire on 25th anniversary of Urban Ministry Center's quest to end homelessness

[CHARLOTTE, NC – May 11, 2018] The Board of Directors of the Charlotte Urban Ministry Center announced today that Dale Mullennix, Executive Director of the Center will retire in the spring of 2019. Mullennix has served Charlotte's community as an advocate for change by bringing together the faith, government and business communities to end homelessness. He transformed the agency from a small organization providing basic services to one of the city's largest outreach efforts enabling people experiencing homelessness to move from the streets to their own home. Mullennix led the charge in Charlotte to create affordable permanent supportive housing with the development of the groundbreaking Moore Place.

Under Mullennix's leadership more than 150 houses of faith, thousands of donors, businesses, and volunteers in the community have come together to help serve people experiencing homelessness. Founded in 1994 with Mullennix as the Executive Director, the Center has adopted and developed creative outreach ministries including Room In The Inn, art programs, cooking programs, a soccer team, a gospel choir and organic garden. In 2006, the Urban Ministry Center created SABER, one the most recognized substance use treatment centers in Charlotte. No one was ever discouraged from trying out an idea that might help men and women who are homeless lead full lives. The Urban Ministry Center is a nationally recognized model and hosts leaders from across the country seeking to learn more about its innovative approaches.

In 2012, the Urban Ministry opened Moore Place. Over 10mm dollars was raised in the beginning of the recession to build the first phase of a 120-apartment complex to provide housing for Charlotte's most vulnerable citizens. In 2015, Dale was named as the community director of the Housing First Charlotte Mecklenburg Initiative, which coordinated non-profit agencies, business and government resources to set targets, goals and plans to end chronic homelessness.

"I have had no greater privilege than to serve the needs of the men, women, and families that have been living on Charlotte's streets", said Dale Mullennix. "I am also blessed to have worked beside those whose lives have been transformed by serving people who experience homelessness—our volunteers, and the incredible staff at the Urban Ministry Center. I am equally blessed by my wonderful family that has been by my side supporting this mission"

“We are truly grateful for the life of service that Dale has given to Charlotte”, said Urban Ministry Board Chair Kristina Burke, “He has touched so many lives and has been a large part of the conscience of our city for many years. Dale’s intentional, compassionate leadership style combined with his innovative spirit has created real change for our most vulnerable citizens.”

A national search to replace Mullennix will begin in earnest this summer. Mullennix will remain in his role until a new director is hired and assist with the transition.

Mullennix is married to the Rev Jane Summey and is the father of two children. He previously served as a pastor at Myers Park Baptist Church. He was part of the group that brought Habitat for Humanity to Charlotte and has been active in numerous housing initiatives and the development of housing policy for the city of Charlotte.

About the Urban Ministry Center

The Urban Ministry Center is an interfaith organization dedicated to bringing the community together to end homelessness, one life at a time. We provide daily basic services for those yet to be housed including a soup kitchen, showers and laundry, phones and mail, assistance with ID or new employment, and more.

Since 2014, homelessness in Charlotte has been gradually declining, and Urban Ministry Center has been a leader in that effort, by lowering barriers to service for our neighbors experiencing homelessness, involving the community in our programs as volunteers and donors, and adopting the Housing First model to provide permanent, affordable housing with supportive services for those who have experienced chronic homelessness. The Center now houses over 300 formerly homeless individuals and provides services on 4 campuses and through scattered site housing.

More information about Urban Ministry Center can be found at urbanministrycenter.org

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