



REV. DR. JILL DUFFIELD  
SENIOR PASTOR

February 7, 2024

Friends,

As you know the Session has been exploring a partnership with DHIC, a nonprofit developer of affordable housing based in Raleigh, to use our church property on the corner of North Elm and Fisher for affordable housing for seniors. The Session tasked the Property Committee with doing due diligence and assessing the feasibility of this proposal. A group from the Property Committee comprised of real estate developers, attorneys and others, spent many hours learning what this project would entail and the implications for our congregation. After much work and prayerful discernment, the full Property Committee concluded unanimously and the Session concurred in a vote Tuesday evening, that we, the church, could not meet several non-negotiable requirements of DHIC necessary to bring this project to fruition. These included the size and scale of the proposed building, the loss of control of the property, the inability to 100% guarantee the use of the structure for the entirety of the 75-year land lease, and the short timeline driven by external deadlines.

Despite our inability to meet these requirements, this process has borne fruit. We have a renewed focus and energy for doing God's will on the corner even if, as yet, we aren't clear on what that is. (While we anticipate future discussions on how to use this part of our campus, it is not part of our capital campaign.) We acquired updated information on our property lines, the cost of rebuilding a wall should the Shetler building be torn down, and, most importantly, the urgent need for affordable housing in Greensboro and our commitment to help meet that need.

In God's economy nothing is wasted. All is blessed and hillside fragments are gathered so that God can use them to nourish others. We trust that the work and discernment done over the past year will be in service to whatever it is God has in mind for not only the Shetler building, but our entire campus and the Greensboro community.

Several members of the Property Committee will be available for conversation this Sunday, February 11, at 12:30 in the Garden Room. We welcome your wisdom and especially your prayers.

Grace and peace,

Jill Duffield on behalf of the Session