

The Presbytery of Shenandoah
PO Box 1146
Harrisonburg, VA 22803

April 1, 2024

Amy Snider
City of Harrisonburg
City Manager's Office
409 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Dear Amy,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me last week. I'm following up with a letter to sum up our conversation and to help inform others at the City of Harrisonburg offices who may need to be aware of our conversations.

First, I am the designated liaison for the Committee on Presbytery Administration for The Presbytery of Shenandoah. The presbytery is a group of Presbyterian Church (USA) churches that share ministry in the region which includes Harrisonburg. When we discerned it was time to sell our presbytery office property, we were pleased to sell it in such a way that allows Harrisonburg to serve our neighbors experiencing homelessness. We are so glad the continuing purpose of the property is so closely aligned with our own goals and mission.

Second, I need to say that I cannot speak for the presbytery, so anything in this letter or discussions cannot be binding until the presbytery takes a vote. The next potential time for a vote of presbytery is May 14, 2024. While I am hopeful that we will be able to help the City of Harrisonburg and Open Doors begin your outreach efforts with a fully equipped kitchen, the final decision lies with the will of the presbytery.

With that being said, the Committee on Presbytery Administration has authorized me to talk with the City of Harrisonburg about the potential of making a \$50,000 gift for the express purpose of completing and equipping the kitchen in the new homeless shelter being constructed on the grounds of the former presbytery office. In the committee's discussions, they said before they brought such a motion to the floor of a presbytery meeting, they wanted to know that the city would be willing to accept such a gift and use it for only such a purpose.

When you and I spoke last week, you explained to me that gifts over \$10,000 have to be approved by the city council before they can be accepted. I think this might give us just the opportunity to give the presbytery the assurance they need to approve such a gift. I am wondering if the city council would consider approving the following motion, or something similar to it at their April 23, 2024 meeting. I am happy to work with you or others from the city office

that might need to refine the motion to fit the format of city meetings while keeping the intent of the presbytery's gift in mind.

Motion:

That the City of Harrisonburg's city council approve that IF The Presbytery of Shenandoah votes at their May 14, 2024 meeting to approve a \$50,000 gift to the city for the express purpose of completing and equipping the kitchen at the new homeless shelter at 1111 North Main Street, the City of Harrisonburg will accept the gift and agrees to use it for only this stated purpose.

I looked at the donation application, and if I need to fill that out before the April 23rd meeting, I can, but when I looked over it, it seemed more appropriate to fill that out after the May 14 vote. Also, I think our presbytery moderator or one of our staff members may be a better signatory on that document than me. However, if that application has to be done first, please let me know, and I'll work to get you what you need.

Amy, thanks so much for your work on this project. I look forward to working with you to give The Presbytery of Shenandoah the information and assurances they need to make an informed decision when they meet in mid-May. My contact information is below, and I welcome our collaboration on this effort.

Sincerely,

Rev. Clayton Rascoe
Executive Director
Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center &
Member at Large of The Presbytery of Shendandoah