



9th October 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ

This letter is to give you an update on what is happening to the physical church of Holy Trinity Riverbend and our hoped-for building project. Ever since we entered this pandemic time we have kept in close contact about the project with Cam and Anne and the whole board at Right at Home Housing Society (RAHHS) to try and keep our dream alive of building affordable housing in Terwilligar. Patti and Ken Holmstrom have worked very hard on your behalf on this project and I want to publicly thank them for all that they have done. Sharing our dreams of building both affordable housing and greater community connections was a way of examining how true societal transformation could take place. The build would have been an incredible piece of work that would have helped so many people in their search for a place to call home.

However, it is fair to say that no one could have predicted the cumulative effects of a global pandemic, and the economic and political climate on funding for projects such as these. I am so sorry to tell you that RAHHS is not in a position to move forward on this for the foreseeable future. Therefore, it is with the deepest regret that we have ended our participation in the proposed build and partnership with RAHHS. It is my prayer that we will be able to collaborate on a different project in the future.

Unfortunately, the years have not been kind to the church building. We are no longer in a position where our occupancy of the building is safe. There are issues with water damage, heating, black mold, and the structure itself. These issues would take tens of thousands of dollars to rectify in a building we intend to demolish. The forced air heating system and the mold problem means that we cannot heat the building at the present time and have everyone be safe. We have taken the sad decision to close up the building and to sell the property.

It is still our hope to work with developers who will help us in our goal of affordable housing. We are looking at a lease space that we can access as soon as possible for in person church meetings but for now we will continue online. I want to assure you that although the building is closed the parish of Holy Trinity is very much alive. I am so sorry for this outcome and I assure you that this situation is a priority for me to resolve. We will keep everyone updated as things progress.

In the meantime, thank you so much for all your hard work, vision and dedication.

In Christ,

+Jane