

Kristin Retherford

From: Kristin Retherford
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2019 10:00 AM
To: Amy Johnson; Brad Nanke; Cara Kaser; Chris Hoy; Chuck Bennett; Courtney Knox Busch; Dan Atchison; Gretchen Bennett; Heather Dimke; Jackie Leung; Jim Lewis; Kathy Ursprung; Kenny Larson; Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie; Lynda Rose; Matthew Ausec; Natasha Zimmerman; Norman Wright; Peter Fernandez; Robert Barron; Ruth Stellmacher; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Thomas Cupani; Tom Andersen; Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: First Presbyterian and 90 day warming shelter

I have unfortunately been informed that First Presbyterian is not able to take on the 90 day shelter commitment. They are willing to continue operating warming shelters at the 32 degree threshold, but not the ongoing operations.

I attended their board meeting last night and asked that they consider a lesser commitment if 90 days was not feasible for them, and had held out hope that this might be a viable option. But there's just too much at play right now that makes this too much for them to take on. While ARCHES initial outreach to them was done in a short timeframe that didn't allow for full vetting with their board, the initial response to the request led to optimism and an expectation this would be a workable solution. However, further internal discussions at the church led them to realize that this would be too much for them to take on right now.

Their pastor is retiring in January, they are not fully staffed, and they have board members transitioning off the board. Their interim pastor starts in February. The combination of short notice and internal transition have led them to conclude that they just don't have the capacity for this right now.

We are rapidly exploring other sites for shelter operations and will provide updates as new information develops.

We will also be issuing a press release.

Kristin Retherford
Urban Development Director
City of Salem | Urban Development Department
350 Commercial St. NE, Salem, OR 97301
kretherford@cityofsalem.net | 503-540-2486