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November 21, 2023

Mayor Josh Morgan,
Members of Council
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue, London, ON, N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Morgan and members of Council

RE: Upcoming Winter Program to address homelessness

For the last two winters First-St. Andrew's United Church, working in partnership with Ark Aid Street Mission has provided overnight shelter and support for up to 50 people, every night, during the months of December through March.

We see this as an important part of our mission as a downtown church and part of our responsibility to assist the most vulnerable, as we are able.

We have learned much through this experience and we know, from first-hand, lived experience that the winter support programs provided by Ark Aid and others, respond to a vital need in our community – even though we all lament the fact that such services are required.

We also want you to know that we are totally supportive of the system-wide hub model currently under the early stages of implementation.

As City Council deliberates and decides on how to respond to the dire needs of people in our city who live without permanent or secure shelter this coming winter season, please do what you can to respond to the shelter and support needs of this growing population.

Your leadership and support, both morally and financially, is vital to addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of these most vulnerable citizens.

Respectfully yours,

David Wardlaw
Chair of Council

Rev. Dr. Joshua Lawrence
Minister of Worship and Congregational Life