



**ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO LONDON REGION**

**1017 Western Road London ON N6G 1G5**

April 12, 2013

Heather Lysynski, Secretary  
Planning and Environment Committee (PEC)  
City Clerk's Office, London City Hall  
300 Dufferin Street  
London, Ontario N6A 4L9

Dear Planning and Environment Committee Chair and Members,

This letter is to confirm the support of ACO London for the Fugitive Slave Chapel Preservation Project in its decision to move and restore the building on land adjacent to the Beth Emmanuel Church on Grey Street. In a perfect world, it would be possible and preferable to keep the chapel on site as a more vivid reminder and reference to the rich history of the building and neighbourhood. However, given the apparent reality that the chapel, if moved, would be cherished and would serve a purpose within the black community and would be a site for the many people within Canada and the U.S. who seek knowledge of the Underground Railroad, it may be a preferable course of action.

We strongly believe, however, that an archeological assessment of the property should be made before the house is moved and before the land on which it stands has been paved over or disturbed. Such an assessment could reveal artifacts or material that may shed light on the history of the church and the original fugitive slave community, for which there is little or no written documentation. That opportunity is not likely to come again so should be taken and embraced at this critical point in time.

Respectfully,  
Genet Hodder  
President, ACO London