



Greetings from Covenant Presbyterian Church:

One of the defining marks of our congregation is our commitment to our neighbors. Specifically, we have served the city for years by offering space for community forums and groups. We have hosted the Special Olympics, provided a preschool, developed recreation leagues, presented health and wellness programs as well as many other endeavors, all aimed toward the public good. Therefore, we are pleased to inform you of our latest effort to be a conscientious Dilworth citizen and neighbor. Covenant Church is currently taking steps to allow for a new use of the church-owned home at 1030 Arosa Avenue (known to us as the Arosa House).

For many years, Covenant made the Arosa House available to The Family Center for its use in the important work of repairing the lives of families broken by child abuse. Because of unexpected changes in state regulations, The Family Center was forced to vacate the home in 2007, and the Arosa House has sat vacant since that time.

In the subsequent years, the staff and lay leadership of Covenant have been vigorously seeking a new use for the property, a use that would once again serve an important community need. We now believe that we have found a match in the form of Freedom School Partners, Inc. and their educational mission with under-resourced children. To that end, we hope to offer the Arosa House to Charlotte's Freedom School Partners for their use as administrative offices.

We can well imagine that nearby property owners will have questions about the impact of this proposal. Let us do our best to answer here the most obvious questions, and to assure you of our future availability for further conversation. The basics of the proposal are these:

- 1) We will be seeking to rezone the Arosa House property from R-4 to O-2(CD), a change required by the city to permit the Arosa House to be used for administrative offices;
- 2) The great majority of the activity in the Arosa House would take place Monday through Friday, during daytime hours (i.e., standard office hours);
- 3) Parking for those working in or visiting the Arosa House would be in Covenant Church parking lots;
- 4) We hope that the staff of Freedom School Partners will be in place in the Arosa House by the end of the year;
- 5) If you would like to learn more about the work of Freedom School Partners, see their web site: www.freedomschoolpartners.org.

- Continued -

Please know that Covenant is just now beginning to pursue this rezoning request: the application has not been filed, and the city planners have not yet been formally approached. This process can at times be lengthy, but we hope to conclude by the end of the year. For now, we wanted you to be informed early on of our intentions. We hope this initial communication will foster your trust, and reassure you that we intend to continue our long history of being the very best neighbor we can be.

After the Rezoning Application has been filed, Covenant will hold a community meeting regarding this proposal, and we will invite you to attend that meeting.

In closing, let us reiterate that it is our firm belief that this use of the Arosa House offers advantages to all concerned: to the neighborhood by providing stable occupancy for an otherwise vacant piece of property; to the church by allowing for faithful stewardship of this valuable resource; and to the children served by Freedom School Partners.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert W. Henderson
Senior Minister

John Baxter
Clerk of Session