

DRAFT



April 21, 2021

Dear Congregational Council,

The Board of Directors of Franciscan Ministries thanks you for considering our request for authorization to purchase a building for Tamar's Center. The services provided at Tamar's are in demand and not provided by others. They are core to our mission of meeting unmet needs of people living in poverty in our community.

Tamar's Center serves as an entry point to intervention for women living on the streets. Tamar's has been recognized in our community as one of eight non-profits that stepped up during the pandemic. We were recently honored by the Cincinnati Association as the Spencer Award winner (best non-profit) in recognition of Tamar's recent work.

The problem we face is the loss of our current space at Phillipus United Church of Christ. The church building has been sold to a developer. We have until early to mid-2022 to find another location. While the sale of the property is recent, the need for a new and better space is not.

We began searching in earnest for a new location beginning in early 2018, though first efforts to find a new location began in 2016. Over the course of the past five years we have formed two task force groups, tried to find new leased space, on our own or co-located with partners. We even tried to negotiate renovation of part of the church, before they decided to sell. All with no success. As time passed, the church building deteriorated to such a point that staff have had to worked in an environment with leaks and mold, and a rat infestation.

We are attaching a brief history of our efforts and a summary of the challenge we face in trying to lease building. We welcome your questions and dialogue.

Sincerely,

Jason Bruns

On behalf of the Franciscan Ministries Board of Directors