



January 3, 2025

TO: Mayor & Council of the City of Vernon

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

On behalf of the Board and leadership of the Vernon Upper Room Mission, we would like to formally request a letter of support endorsing our application for year-round dry shelter funding with BC Housing and our pursuit of capital and construction funding through various available government funds, foundations and private investments.

Given the significant impact these initiatives will have on addressing homelessness and providing much-needed housing options in our community, I am writing to request an official endorsement from the City of Vernon to help us with our funding applications.

The Vernon Upper Room Mission, founded in 1980, has served as a cornerstone of support for individuals in our community facing homelessness, poverty, and isolation. With 43 years of consistent and responsible fiscal management and operational leadership, the Mission continues to play a vital role in addressing the needs of Vernon's most vulnerable residents.

In response to the growing demand for shelter and housing in our city, the Upper Room Mission has acquired three adjacent lots on 27th Avenue in downtown Vernon. These properties, appropriately zoned for redevelopment, are central to the Society's visionary two-phase project. This initiative aims to deliver a range of critical services, including substance withdrawal management, recovery support (off-site), transitional (supportive) housing, and affordable housing.

The proposed redevelopment includes:

- A year-round dry shelter for both men and women.
- A 15-bed substance withdrawal management unit in partnership with a health authority.

- Over 100 units of sober living accommodations, ranging from studio apartments to one- and two-bedroom units, designed to meet diverse housing needs through a continuum of care.
- Ancillary support services, employment opportunities, and social enterprise initiatives.

The Upper Room Mission has demonstrated its commitment to meeting urgent community needs. For the past two years, it has operated a Winter Shelter Mat Program, providing essential bed spaces to address Vernon's rising homeless population. Supported by BC Housing, the Mission is also renovating its existing facility to enhance this program and establish a year-round dry shelter for men and women.

We deeply value the support and advice already provided by the planning team at the City of Vernon and ask that the Council endorse our applications for year-round dry shelter funding with BC Housing and our pursuit of capital and construction funding through various available government funds, foundations and private investments.

With respect and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacco de Vin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jacco de Vin
Executive Director
Vernon Upper Room Mission Society
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