

# Press release

*For immediate release*

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## **Arlington Presbyterian Church receives Green Light to Sell Property for Affordable Housing**

Arlington, Virginia, February 9, 2015—On Tuesday, January 27, the approximately 200 commissioners of the National Capital Presbytery gave a standing ovation and unanimous approval for Arlington Presbyterian Church (APC) to sell their property to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to build approximately 140 units of affordable housing on the church site along Columbia Pike. APAH will be seeking the necessary financing and land use approvals during 2015, with hopes of closing on the property in July 2016. APC will continue to worship in the building until that time.

“Starting with a discernable nudge from the Holy Spirit, we embarked on a journey of discernment that has taken us outside our walls, that has carried us beyond our fears as we trust in God’s provision and plan, and that has moved us way beyond ourselves as we went out into our community driven by the question, ‘For whom are our hearts breaking in our community?’ Only God could have imagined that broken hearts would mean tearing down literal walls and building something completely new,” said Pastor Sharon Core. “We hope our journey inspires other congregations to look at new ways of connecting with their communities,” Core added.

As a faith community APC is committed to:

- creating and nurturing a community of disciples
- being a people and place of crossroads for the Columbia Pike neighborhood
- redeveloping their property to provide affordable housing for those in their community

“We are excited to bring new life to the land that has nurtured our congregation for over 100 years. We are excited to be able to continue to discern the future of our faith community and the possibility of the emergence of a new worshiping community, taking on a new form, responding to the needs of our neighbors,” stated Susan Etherton, church elder and Affordable Housing Team lead. APC has the right of first refusal to lease back the street-front retail space from APAH in the new building where the church now stands. The congregation’s mission now will be to decide in what new ways they might be called to be church there.

APC has been a forward-thinking congregation since 1908. Its legacy has been about the people and the community, and not necessarily about the building. APC is grateful for this approval from their governing body to continue their partnership with APAH to provide much-needed affordable housing in Arlington County. For more information on Arlington Presbyterian Church, visit [www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org](http://www.arlingtonpresbyterian.org), for more information on APAH, visit [www.apah.org](http://www.apah.org).

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