



120 Wentworth Street North
Hamilton, Ontario.
L8L 5V7

www.wentworthbaptist.ca

April 4, 2025

Re: Indwell's Zoning By-law Amendment Application for 120 Wentworth St N

Dear Chair and Members of the Planning Committee,

We are writing on behalf of the members of Wentworth Baptist Church in support of Indwell's application for a zoning by-law amendment to develop new affordable housing. The project at 120 Wentworth Street North is critically needed in the context of rising rents, housing insecurity, and growing homelessness. The application, including the requested rezoning to a Mixed-Use Medium Density Zone and site-specific provisions, deserves your full support based on the project's merits.

Indwell's adaptive reuse plan for the property, developed in partnership with our congregation, responds to the needs of the city, particularly the Gibson and Lansdale neighbourhood. Faced with an aging building, our congregation discerned several potential avenues forward that could serve the public good, in line with Scripture's command to "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7). The need for more affordable housing has been a topic of conversation amongst our church and neighbours for some time. This need has only increased since we began discerning what to do with our property in 2018. With this significant need in mind, we started working with Indwell. Knowing their strong track record of creating holistically well-designed long-term affordable housing, in terms of both architecture and supportive programming, left us confident that, with their help, the property could find new life and purpose, continuing to be used as a house of worship and gathering place for the community while also providing hope and homes for those in need.

As part of Indwell's plan, the current sanctuary will be renovated to become a more multi-functional space, facilitating Indwell program use and community group bookings while allowing continued use by our church. The current "Sunday School Hall" and program/office building will be demolished to make way for a new apartment building addition, which will provide 50 units of quality affordable housing for current and future generations. We are proud that Indwell is designing the project according to CMHC's highest standards for affordability, accessibility, and energy efficiency.

Thank you for noting our congregation's support as you consider Indwell's application.

Sincerely,

the Rev. Dr. Seán McGuire
Lead Pastor

Stephanie Climie
Chair, Board of Directors