



## Statement Regarding the Closure of NHCC

Early last year Normal Heights United Church, the parent organization of the Normal Heights Children's Center, contracted with a local company to do a study of our buildings to create for us a timeline and plan for maintaining our property. This reserve study covered all three buildings that the church owns: the church sanctuary, the NHCC building, and a building that houses a charter school, and it determined for us what repairs we should expect to make over the next 25 years for these buildings.

When the report was delivered, we were dismayed by the numbers. It was a staggering amount. According to the reserve study, the amount needed for these buildings in the future would have to be in the millions of dollars, and it also reported we should expect to spend \$800,000 in the next 10 years alone. All of this is in addition to the \$300,000 we already have set aside as our sole savings.

This amount of money that is needed to keep these buildings operating and safe results in a sad conclusion for us. We unfortunately simply do not see a way forward in our current structure due to the costs associated with maintaining and operating the Children's Center. There is simply too much money that will be needed in the next decade to keep up with these three buildings which means that we need to sell them or offer a long-term ground lease. It is our highest priority to offer the building to an organization who can continue the work of early childhood education in our neighborhood, and one that has the funds to continue this mission in a sustainable way.

This decision is a painful one for us, but a necessary one. We have invested in this place for decades because we love this neighborhood and its families and children. It is our hope that in the future something may return that can fill this gap, but financially we no longer can sustain that vision.

After meeting with some parents from the community, we are actively working at accommodating their requests if possible. We are grateful to have been able to serve the families of our neighborhood for over 50 years, and we are hopeful and excited to pass that work on to an organization who can continue that service to the neighborhood and families we love.