

**Linda Buckler**

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**From:** Erin Jones <erin.rose0710@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:20 PM  
**To:** James Dickerson  
**Cc:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** Proposed amendment to the definition of religious assemblies

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**CAUTION: External email**

Hello Mr. Dickerson,

I work with the Louisa Homeless Coalition and am wondering if in the meeting scheduled for April 10th you are willing to support an amendment to the definition for religious assemblies that includes an exemption for nights that pose the risk of hypothermia. The proposed language for such an amendment would be:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or when the National Weather System indicates that overnight forecasted temperatures will be below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

Alternatively, [Cold.DC.Gov](#) defines hypothermia season as November through March. And therefore, we believe it would have the same effect to amend the proposed changes to read:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or to provide hypothermia shelter from November through March, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

These updates would also need to be applied to the corresponding section under the proposed definition for "Emergency Shelter."

Thank you for your consideration!

Erin Jones  
4190 Columbia Rd.  
Gordonsville, VA 22942

## Linda Buckler

**From:** David McWilliams <davidmcwilliams@vaumc.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:01 PM  
**To:** James Dickerson  
**Cc:** Planning Commission  
**Subject:** Re: Planning Commission - Overnight Shelter

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**CAUTION:** External email

Hello Mr. Dickerson,

I wanted to take a moment to follow up regarding our conversation at the end of the last planning commission meeting regarding the definition for religious assemblies.

I'm wondering if you are willing to propose an amendment to the definition that includes an exemption for nights that pose the risk of hypothermia. My proposed language for such an amendment would be:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or when the National Weather System indicates that overnight forecasted temperatures will be below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

Alternatively, [Cold.DC.Gov](#) defines hypothermia season as November through March. And therefore, I believe it would have the same effect to amend the proposed changes to read:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or to provide hypothermia shelter from November through March, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

I would greatly appreciate a reply prior to the next scheduled planning commission meeting on Thursday, April 10th.

Thank you for your consideration!

Peace,

David McWilliams

Zion United Methodist Church

1674 Zion Rd. Troy, VA 22942

On Fri, Mar 7, 2025 at 9:33 AM David McWilliams <[davidmcwilliams@vaumc.org](mailto:davidmcwilliams@vaumc.org)> wrote:  
Hello James,

My name is David McWilliams. I am the pastor of Zion UMC as well as a resident of the Green Springs District. I am reaching out regarding county codes regarding overnight shelter and potentially amending the code to allow religious assemblies to have an accessory use exception (with reasonable



conditions).

At this point, we are seeking to offer an overnight, hypothermia shelter during the winter months. This is something that we have been working to provide through a collection of churches, however the current zoning codes create an overwhelming obstacle to offering this ministry to our unhoused neighbors. Not only has our team identified several Louisa County families sleeping in their cars but we have personally spent funds to temporarily house people at the Loyalty Inn. Additionally, Charlottesville is currently turning away people from their shelter collaboration (PACEM) due to the overwhelming demand, some of which is caused by Louisa residents seeking shelter in Charlottesville during the winter.

I would love the opportunity to speak with you briefly, before the next planning commission meeting next Thursday, about the possibility of amending the code in a reasonable, community beneficial manner.

Thank you for all of your behind the scenes leadership in supporting our county and district.

Peace,  
David McWilliams  
Pastor, Zion UMC  
1674 Zion Rd. Troy, VA

**Linda Buckler**

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**From:** sue Frankel-Streit <suefrankelstreit@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:45 PM  
**To:** C. Ellis Quarles; Planning Commission  
**Subject:** Amendment

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**CAUTION: External email**

Hello,

As a resident of your district I am writing to ask that at your next planning commission meeting you amend the definition for religious assembly to include an exemption for emergency shelter for nights that pose the risk of hypothermia. My proposed language for such an amendment would be:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or when the National Weather System indicates that overnight forecasted temperatures will be below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

Alternatively, [Cold.DC.Gov](#) defines hypothermia season as November through March. And therefore, I believe it would have the same effect to amend the proposed changes to read:

*A religious assembly may operate an emergency shelter, as defined in this section, for the duration of a State or Locally declared State of Emergency, or to provide hypothermia shelter from November through March, without benefit of a conditional use permit.*

These updates would also need to be applied to the corresponding section under the proposed definition for "Emergency Shelter."

Thanks,

Sue Frankel Streit