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TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

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To whom it may concern:

As a professional in the historic preservation community with over twenty years experience and as a member of the Bloomfield Township Council serving as the liaison to several historic and cultural preservation efforts, I am writing to offer my wholehearted endorsement of the Church on the Green Sanctuary Restoration Project. Along with other preservation efforts currently underway, such as the Collins House Project and Morris Canal Greenway, the preservation of the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green will preserve both local and New Jersey history for future generations.

I have personally reviewed the project's plans and agree that immediate measures must be taken to stabilize the 218-year-old sanctuary building to prevent catastrophic collapse onto Broad Street in the direction of Bloomfield High School. The work required to save Bloomfield's most recognizable landmark--the spire of which appears on the bicentennial seal of the Township--will take several million dollars and widespread support from the community. However, the value of the site's significance to our community is immeasurable.

Nestled among the many historic residences in the Bloomfield Historic District, the church campus has been a place of welcome in the heart of Bloomfield for seven generations. Like so many of my neighbors, my family and I want to see it reopen its doors for worship, community events, musical offerings and educational purposes. The congregation members are already giving generously of their means and holding year-round fundraising events but they cannot cover the cost of the entire project themselves.

The stately high Georgian brownstone structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its stained glass windows are made of layered opalescent glass in the technique pioneered by John LaFarge and later adapted by Louis Comfort Tiffany. One of the windows, "The Walk to Emmaus," is a John LaFarge original. The sanctuary houses a brand new 3-manual 48-rank French Romantic Peragallo pipe organ that was dedicated just weeks before the structural problems were detected and the building closed for safety reasons.

Historic figures associated with the church include: William Batchelder Bradbury, a Bloomfield resident and composer of hundreds of hymns and children's songs including "Jesus Loves Me;" the acclaimed American composer Charles Ives who premiered original compositions during his tenure as church organist; and the Rev. George Duffield, Jr., who wrote the Civil War era hymn, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," to honor an evangelist friend who spoke out against the Fugitive Slave Act.

My family and neighbors look forward to helping the members of the Church on the Green preserve our town landmark. Please join us to help **Save Bloomfield History!**

Sincerely,

Carlos M. Pomares
Councilman At-Large