

We are sad to announce that The Shepherd's Center of Richmond (TSCOR) is canceling its spring Open University (OU) session. Open University is one of the most important parts of our mission to serve seniors, and we know you will be as disappointed as we are.

TSCOR has been carefully monitoring the situation with the potential spread of the COVID-19 illness. Public health officials and other experts are urging proactive measures rather than reactive ones and suggest social distancing as one of the most effective ways for the U.S. to reduce viral spread. As you know, many events around the country have been canceled for this reason, including similar lifelong learning programs in the Richmond area.

Since most of the OU attendees are members of the most vulnerable category affected by COVID-19, it behooves us to be conservative in our approach to public gatherings. In addition, the churches in which we meet have closed their facilities for several weeks. Rather than postpone our schedule for half the session and then possibly have to deal with continuing the closure, we believe the best approach is to allow all of us to take the time to pass through this period with minimal exposure to risk.

We are hoping to move the classes scheduled this spring to the fall session, depending on your availability. Our fall session runs from September 21 to November 12, 2020.

Please let us know if you are not able to participate in the fall by emailing Erin Reibel, our Lifelong Learning Coordinator, at ereibel@tscor.org. Erin will be reaching out individually to confirm that the spring time and location will still work in the fall.

If you have any questions, please call Erin Reibel at (804) 337-8991.

We appreciate your support of the Open University and look forward to your participation, if possible, next fall. This has been a difficult decision, but we believe it is the best approach to minimize the risk to attendees, instructors and staff.

Thank you for your understanding,

Hal Costley, Board President
Julie Adams-Buchanan, Executive Director