

**Virtual Leadership Team Meeting
Minutes
July 23, 2020**

Present: Lynda Pyzer, Thelma Bretel, Cathy Zroback; Rai Therrien, Peter Fox, Elora Cavner, Meg Illman-White

Guest: Cheryl Dyck

Meeting responses via e-mil Heather Gropp, Don Cameron and Peter Fox

1) Lynda Pyzer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and reminded us of our holy manners.

2) Approval of Agenda:

One agenda item: **Loitering/No Trespassing church signs**

3) New Business:

A letter was received from a couple who are members of the congregation objecting to the above signs posted on the church building. Lynda Pyzer read and showed the letter on line to meeting participants. It had also previously been circulated by email to the leadership team in preparation for the meeting.

Significant discussion followed. Lynda asked for input from those present and shared e-mail responses she had received.

Heather Gropp by email: indicated she has no issue with removing the signs.

Don Cameron by e-mail: felt the signs seemed to solve the problems at the time. He suggested removing the sign for an interval to see if it makes a difference. He felt the signs were a reluctant choice at the time and were placed for neighbours and Knox members who were accessing the church amid somewhat unsafe surroundings at the time.

Peter Fox by email and meeting presence felt they should not be removed for now. He would like to see the minutes of the meeting that led to the original decision to post the signs. These were not available at this meeting.

Cathy Zroback: At the time the signs were posted they were major issues as a result of the Shelter clientele. She recalled the loitering signs being approved but not the trespassing signs. She dislikes the signs and is willing to try taking them down. She does appreciate the increased security lighting around the outside of the church. Cathy did have negative feedback about the signs, but at the time the situation was dangerous.

Elora Cavner felt that at least the trespassing sign should come down. (she was advised it is a combined sign).

Thelma Bretel felt the sign should be removed. She felt that it doesn't feel like a "church sign". Rai Therrien had not noticed/registered the sign's presence. It is not a "friendly" sign but did it accomplish the goal at the time? She wondered what message it sends.

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Meg Illman-White felt the signs had had no impact. The current shelter manager has instituted more staff training and rules for users. Renovations have been done to the shelter to improve security. She had a discussion with Police about the meaning in the signs. She found it interesting that our sign had the words "You are welcome here" taken following posting of the signs. She feels we are not living out God's table with the signs. Meg further elaborated on the concern for food security and limited housing in the community.

Lynda Pyzer feels disturbed by the signs.

Peter Fox excused himself from the meeting.

Thelma Bretel proposed the following motion: "That Knox Church , following in the steps of Jesus in his welcoming of the most vulnerable, remove the signs that say " No Trespassing, Loitering & Soliciting" from our church building." Seconded by Elora Cavner. Carried by Leadership Team members currently at the meeting.

Motion #1 Moved by Thelma Bretel and seconded by Elora Cavner.

THAT Knox Church, following in the steps of Jesus in his welcoming of the most vulnerable, remove the signs that say " No Trespassing, Loitering and Soliciting" from our church building.


Leadership Team members currently at the meeting.

Richard Shodin will be asked to remove the signs.


Adjournment:

Next scheduled meeting is September 1 on Zoom at 7:30

Closing Prayer - Led by Meg Illman-White



Signature of Chair



Signature of Secretary

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Motions:

Motion #1 Moved by Thelma Bretel and seconded by Elora Cavner
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Reports and Tasks Pending from July 23, 2020

Tasks	Person(s) / Responsible
Signage removal	Richard Shodin