

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 9:12:04 AM
Attachments: [letter_to_city_council_feb_18_2020.pdf](#)

Submitted on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 - 09:11

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, February 18, 2020
To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name Keith
Last Name Pankratz
Email [REDACTED]
Address [REDACTED] McKay Place
City Saskatoon
Province Saskatchewan
Postal Code S7L [REDACTED]
Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Pleasant Hill
Mennonite Church
Subject Conversion Therapy Ban Proposal
Meeting (if known) Governance and Priorities Committee
Comments

I am asking that the definition of "conversion therapy" be clearly defined prior to any municipal bans in order to maintain the freedoms of individuals to seek the assistance and support they need and choose whether it be professional, medical, counselling, or spiritual. I've attached a letter detailing my concerns and would be willing to speak to council ahead of enacting new legislation.

Thank you,
Pastor Keith Pankratz
Attachments

letter_to_city_council_feb_18_2020.pdf

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/sites/default/files/webform/letter_to_city_council_feb_18_2020.pdf>

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/372318>



PLEASANT HILL CHURCH
DOING EVERYTHING
WITH ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

111 Witney Ave. North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 3M1

www.saskatoonpleasanthillchurch.com

Email: officephmc@sasktel.net

Phone: 306.382.6585

February 18, 2020

Saskatoon City Council

To whom it may concern,

In recent days it has been made known that a request to ban conversion therapy has been brought forward for consideration within our city. But what is conversion therapy?

In the past, some doctors and therapists would prescribe psychotropic drugs or use electric shock aversion therapy to try to eradicate same-sex attraction. Patients were often coerced or forced to undergo such treatments. These long-discredited practices are damaging and wrong, and are, thankfully, no longer in use in Canada.

Today, conversion therapy is usually understood to be any medical or therapeutic effort aimed at trying to change a person's gender identity or sexual attraction. However, conversion therapy is increasingly being discussed in much broader terms, extending to voluntary attempts to reduce unwanted sexual behavior, and often referring to pastoral care and informal support groups in religious settings.

The problem is that conversion therapy may be so broadly defined that it limits freedoms of speech and religion. Could these bans capture faith-based teachings on sexuality or spiritual guidance given to a young person? Could they prohibit caring pastors or loving parents from responding to requests for help based on their understanding of the young person's personality, history and needs; their desire to seek what's best for the young person; and their moral and religious world view?

My concern regarding this proposed ban is that as policy makers seek to protect individuals from harm, it's critical to ensure that conversion therapy is defined in a way that does not infringe on the expression of religious belief, instruction or the provision of pastoral care. It is also important to ensure that persons seeking to work through questions and struggle regarding their sexual orientation or gender identity issues continue to have access to the professional and/ or spiritual guidance they seek to live according to their beliefs and wishes. Individuals should remain free to seek help voluntarily in order to resolve or manage unwanted sexual attractions or behaviors; and the faith community should remain free to offer the support and care needed for a person working through those issues.

As a community, we need to ensure the protection of all our citizens and the freedom of our people to find and receive the treatment and the care they need. Please ensure the definition of "conversion therapy" maintains this freedom for everyone.

Sincerely,

Pastor B. Keith Pankratz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council
Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020 3:30:42 PM
Attachments: [feb_26_2020_letter_from_westside_pastors.pdf](#)

Submitted on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 - 15:30

Submitted by anonymous user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

Date Wednesday, March 04, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name B Keith

Last Name Pankratz

Email [REDACTED]

Address 111 Witney Ave. North

City Saskatoon

Province Saskatchewan

Postal Code S7L 3M1

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Pleasant Hill

Mennonite Church

Subject Conversion Therapy Ban proposal

Meeting (if known) Governance and Priorities/ Council Meeting

Comments

I am submitting a letter that has been endorsed by 7 churches within Saskatoon re: the conversion therapy ban. We are requesting that one of signer's of this letter be given a chance to speak to committee and/or council before any bylaws are amended or adopted.

Thank you

Attachments

[feb_26_2020_letter_from_westside_pastors.pdf](#)

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/377899>

February 26, 2020

**Saskatoon City Council
2nd Floor, City Hall
222 3rd Ave. North
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0J5**

To Saskatoon City Councillors and Mayor,

In recent days it has been made known that a request to ban conversion therapy has been brought forward for consideration within our city. And we have some concerns about how conversion therapy is defined, and the freedoms that may inadvertently be compromised in so doing.

In the past, some doctors and therapists would prescribe psychotropic drugs or use electric shock aversion therapy to try to eradicate same-sex attraction. Patients were often coerced or forced to undergo such treatments. These long-discredited practices are damaging and wrong, and are, thankfully, no longer in use in Canada.

Today, conversion therapy is usually understood to be any medical or therapeutic effort aimed at trying to change a person's gender identity or sexual attraction. However, conversion therapy is increasingly being discussed in much broader terms, extending to voluntary attempts to reduce unwanted sexual behavior, and often referring to pastoral care and informal support groups in religious settings.

Our concern is that conversion therapy may be so broadly defined that it limits freedoms of speech and religion. Could these bans capture faith-based teachings on sexuality or spiritual guidance given to a young person? Could they prohibit caring pastors or loving parents from responding to requests for help based on their understanding of the young person's personality, history and needs; their desire to seek what's best for the young person; and their moral and religious world view?


In considering what bylaws/ regulations may help protect people, it's critical to ensure that conversion therapy is defined in a way that does not infringe on the expression of religious belief, instruction or the provision of pastoral care. It is also important to ensure that persons seeking to work through questions or struggles regarding their own sexual orientation or gender identity continue to have access to the professional and/ or spiritual guidance that they seek in order to live according to their beliefs and wishes. Individuals should remain free to seek help voluntarily in order to resolve or manage unwanted sexual attractions or behaviors; and the faith community should remain free to offer the support and care needed for a person working through those issues.


As a community, we need to ensure the protection of all our citizens and the freedom of our people to find and receive the treatment and the care they need. Please ensure the definition of "conversion therapy" maintains this freedom for everyone.

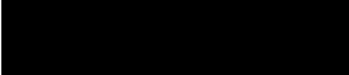
This letter is endorsed by the clergy of the following churches of Saskatoon and we would like to have one of the signees represent and speak to Council or Committees when this issue is addressed.


Sincerely,


Pastor B. Keith Pankratz
Sr. Pastor Pleasant Hill Mennonite Church



Pastor Rob Shepherd
Sr. Pastor Westside Pentecostal Church


Pastor Curtis Zoerb
Sr. Pastor Massey Place Community Church


Pastor Larry Parschauer
Sr. Pastor Life Baptist Church


Pastor Adam Wiebe
Sr. Pastor Bay Park Baptist Church


Pastor Dale Doerksen
Sr. Pastor Sutherland Evangelical Church


Pastor Chris Pudel
Sr. Pastor Riverbend Church of God