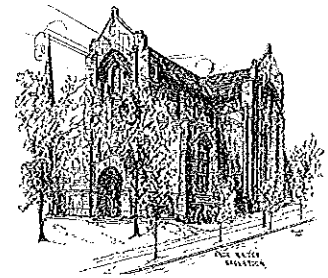


KNOX UNITED CHURCH

838 Spadina Crescent East
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3H4
tel. 306-244-0159
knoxunitedchurch@sasktel.net
www.knoxunitedchurch.ca



September 29, 2020

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee,
City of Saskatoon

On behalf of the Board of Knox United Church, I would like to express our support for the plans of Meridian Developments to build on the property which is adjacent to our building and owned by the church.

The plans which we have seen are not yet in their final form. Nevertheless, what plans we have seen indicate that the building, which includes rental apartments, a parking garage, and space for a café and offices, is attractive, suitable to the site, and complements rather than competing with or detracting from the view of our own heritage building.

Like many churches, Knox faces a shrinking membership, budget deficits, and dwindling financial resources. We have some reserves, but once those are used up, we are unlikely to be able to replace them. We are proud of our building, but it is expensive to heat and maintain. Therefore, we wish to do something now, so that we will be able not only to meet congregational expenses but also maintain our heritage building for future generations. The land that we own is the only resource we can use for this purpose; it is not part of the heritage designation, which covers only the exterior of the building. It is currently used as a parking lot. Our arrangement with Meridian will provide us with permanent ownership of forty parking stalls that should significantly increase our parking revenue.

Our building is a significant one, not only for its heritage value but also for what it contributes to Saskatoon as a concert venue and a place for other events. The Saskatoon Chamber Singers and the Saskatoon Children's Choir use it as a rehearsal and performance space, and the 96th Highlanders Pipes and Drums also rehearses here. The Amati Quartet, the Saskatoon Symphony, the University Chorus, and the Greystone Singers have frequently performed here. Out-of-town groups such as the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the Rosthern Junior Choir have also appeared in our space. In addition, our modest congregation contributes to the social fabric of Saskatoon in other ways; we have sponsored refugee families, and we support the breakfast program at Howard Coad School. We donate as a congregation to Friendship Inn, the Food Bank, and Lighthouse. If we were ever forced to close, our absence would be noticed on several fronts.

But for present purposes, we ask you to note that if our building is to continue to exist in its present form as a significant part of the Saskatoon heritage, we must use the land we own to provide us with a revenue stream to help maintain it. Meridian's project will, we believe, help meet that need.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paul Denham'.

Paul Denham,
Chair-Elect, Knox United Church Board

"Sharing the Gospel of Jesus with all people through worship, service and care"