

## **KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

630 Spadina Avenue  
Toronto, ON M5S 2H4

Phone: (416) 921-8993  
Fax: (416) 921-5918  
[www.knoxtoronto.org](http://www.knoxtoronto.org)

December 11, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

If you have already opened your 2012 offering envelopes, you may have noticed certain changes. This letter highlights the changes as well as important background information to the changes.

As you will see, we have transitioned to a 2-line offering envelope for 2012. Our new offering envelope is simple, easy to read, and a special paragraph has been added to the reverse side of the offering envelope. These changes are being implemented on a 1 year trial basis. Towards the end of 2012 we will review and assess whether further changes are needed. Your feedback on the changes is appreciated and should be sent to Kevin Pasma at the church office.

The special paragraph on the reverse side of the offering envelope is new for 2012 and summarizes Knox's designated donations policy. As indicated in this paragraph, donations for approved ministries, programs and projects of Knox Church (as listed in the Annual Budget) are gratefully received as a trust from the Lord. Any designated donations – specifically designated by you for a particular approved Knox ministry, program or project – are used solely for such purpose or purposes. In specific circumstances where a ministry or project is overfunded or terminated, donations for those ministries or projects will be used where needed most. We expect that this type of situation will be extremely rare. However, to avoid being legally precluded from using funds in these types of circumstances, the *Canadian Council of Christian Charities* recommends charities adopt policies to this effect.

So why are we transitioning to only 2 lines on our 2012 offering envelope compared to the 6 lines we had on our 2011 offering envelope? To address this question, it is necessary to provide you with important background information about Knox's overall financial situation.

Knox continues to be richly blessed by God in many ways and there is no question that God has blessed Knox financially. At the same time, our financial obligations are not insignificant and several recent developments mean that maintaining our current financial status quo is not wise stewardship for the Knox community. You may have heard of these recent developments already; a past service pension liability approximately equal to our existing financial reserves, and necessary significant building restoration work for which no reserves currently exist. In addition, for our main existing sources of income (donations from the congregation and the Jesse Ketchum Trust Fund), we cannot reasonably plan on significant overall increases. On the one hand, a steady decline in attendance over the last 6 to 7 years strongly suggests that it would be unwise to count on an overall increase in givings. On the other hand, real estate professionals have advised us that we should not be expecting an increase in rent when our 21 year land lease is renewed in 2014 (i.e., the Jesse Ketchum Trust Fund). Taken together, these recent developments mean that maintaining our current financial status quo is not sustainable. We need to make changes on our own initiative, or change may

be brought upon us in ways that we may not be able to manage – we need to change, or be changed!

There are a number of financial elements in our overall response to these signs. A Site Review Task Force is considering our options as it relates to the building and will report to Session in the spring of 2012. In developing Knox's 2012 budget, we plan to include sufficient reductions to expenses to bring these in line with income and funds available. More details on these proposed changes will be communicated as part of the 2012 Budget approval process.

Underlying our response to our financial challenges is our desire to build community as we navigate these times together. We believe that God is calling us to work through these challenges, and to do so will require us to work more closely together. Our financial challenges require us to sharpen our focus on what God is calling us to do, to work together towards shared goals and ministry purposes, holding ourselves and each other accountable to these shared goals and ministry purposes. Always, but especially now, we must commit ourselves to the good of the whole of Knox Church. From a financial perspective, the approved Annual Budget captures the shared goals and ministry purposes of the congregation. As such, the approved Annual Budget indicates what we will receive offerings for, and also how we will spend those monies.

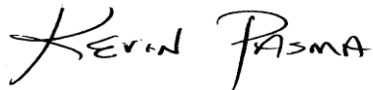
By adding the line "Knox Church" to our 2012 offering envelope, we seek to promote the overall ministry of Knox Church. Donations towards the Knox Church line item will be spent in accordance with our Annual Budget. In retaining the line "Other" on our 2012 offering envelope, we recognize that God may place particular approved ministries or projects near to the hearts and minds of those who wish to support Knox Church. As outlined above, any designated donations will be used solely for such purposes in accordance with our policy.

The changes to our 2012 offering envelope are but one part of our overall response to Knox's current financial challenges. As outlined above, these changes are designed to keep before the congregation the ministry of Knox Church as a whole.

Thank you for your ongoing prayer and financial support of the ministry of Knox Church, it is greatly appreciated.

And may God bless you in this Advent and Christmas season with His gift to each of us, His Son Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KEVIN PASMA". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first letters being larger and more prominent.

Kevin Pasma  
On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team