

A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP

We are anticipating a judgment from the Honorable Stephen Kelleher in the next 4-8 weeks. This is a reasonable 'best guess' based on the fact that Judge Kelleher completed and submitted (on Oct 9th) his judgment on the trial he heard just before ours.

In preparation, we want to assure you of some things, prepare you for others, and ask you to pray with your family, friends, and your small group through the possibilities of where God may be leading us.

First, we want to assure you that we will remain a congregation following God wherever he leads. St. John's congregation is a church of God's people. Our building is our home and important but it does not define us as a church. In the event we need to move, God has graciously provided us temporary space in Vancouver, that will accommodate us all.

We want you to know that we will communicate the decision as soon as we can, through our website www.stjohnsvancouver.org and our email directory. If you received the legal updates during the trial in May, we have your email. If you did not and would like to be on our email list, please contact Krista in the office at Krista@stjohnsshaughnessy.org.

We want you to be prepared for the press coverage that this judgment will receive. Although, during the trial we did not receive a lot of press, we are anticipating much more with the decision. Do not be surprised if you read about or hear about the decision from the press before we have had the opportunity to communicate it to you.

Above all, please pray! We need to be still and know that God is God. We need to lay our cares and anxieties down before him.

On October 1, at our family meeting, we went through some questions together to guide our prayers. The next few pages are the list the collective results of our time together. We commend them to your reading and your prayers.

Warmly In Christ,

David Avren,
Lesley Bentley,
Krista Friebel,
Christine Klukas,
David Short

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOSPEL IN THIS PROCESS?

- To tell the gospel and the story of God's faithfulness.
- To witness to Jesus in conversations that may come up with friends, coworkers and curious people as a result of media coverage.
- To demonstrate faithfulness, humility and grace in our responses.
- To be bold

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOSPEL IF WE KEEP THE BUILDING?

- Opportunity for curious onlookers to check out what is happening here.
- It would attract Anglicans that may have given up
- Be an encouragement to other churches
- Growth from continuity of present ministries
- Requirement to practice humility and grace in our response
- Encouragement for other Christians to stand for their faith
- Our resources re-deployed to ministry
- Stability, allowing us to focus on outreach to our city
- Broader national ministry

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DANGERS WE MAY FACE IF WE KEEP THE BUILDING?

- Complacency
- Forgetting it is God's plan, God's building, and God's doing
- Appeal costs
- Being in a building that is too small for our needs.
- Self-righteousness
- Animosity from the community
- Focus on the past instead of focusing on the future
- Vandalism

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE GOSPEL IF WE MOVE?

- It will be an adventure with God in which we will be forced to depend on him more
- New visibility and exposure, new people to reach
- An opportunity to be more reliant on God
- An opportunity to increase unity
- To care for one another in different ways
- To tell the story of God's faithfulness
- For facilities that better serve the ministries and evangelism
- To be cared for by the broader church in Vancouver
- Forced change can bring unforeseen blessing
- Forced to re-think how to reach Vancouver with the message of Jesus and how to care for each other
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WHAT ARE SOME OF THE DANGERS WE MAY FACE IF WE HAVE TO MOVE?

- Anger, bitterness, and resentment
- Being poor witnesses
- Loss of people
- Loss of giving
- Loss of unity
- Being misunderstood by the media and public
- Being deemed intolerant
- Loss of ministries and momentum

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S

Heavenly Father,
you are our council and strength
a strong tower of defense,
a comforter in tribulation,
a deliverer in distress,
a very present help in trouble
and a guide to Heaven through
the many temptations of this life.

We come before you
with humble and penitent hearts,
as your children and as the family of St. John's,
deeply aware of our great need
as we await the judgment

We pray that you will renew our spirits
and draw our hearts even closer to you
keeping us mindful that you are in all the circumstances
that lie ahead.

Give us hearts of gratitude and peace
so that we may honour you
in all that is said, and done.

We commit all that lies ahead,
our hopes and our concerns,
into your loving and caring hands,
through the name of our Blessed Saviour,
Jesus Christ, Amen

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS, HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES YOU MAY WANT TO EXPLORE:

OUR WEBSITE - www.stjohnsvancouver.org - We plan to keep this as up-to-date as we can.

THE OFFICE - We recognize that not everyone has a computer and we will make updates available at our reception desk.

EMAIL - If you would like to get email updates please email krista@stjohnsshaughnessy.org and give her your name, address, and phone number.

Preparing for the Judgment



*"Be still, and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10*

