

June 22, 2024

Sidney Stacey

Mayor Andrea Horwath  
Hamilton City Councillors

RE: Notice of Intention to Designate Philpott Church

My name is Sidney Stacey and I have been a resident of Hamilton for the past 32 years and have attended Philpott Church on 84 York Blvd for the past 10 years. I am writing to express my deep concerns about an impending notice of intention to designate Philpott Church as a heritage property. I don't believe this is in the best interests of the city and certainly not for Philpott Church. I do believe there is a sensible way forward that would advance the social, cultural, economic, and housing interests of the city and support a growing and vibrant multi-ethnic church serving in the downtown core of Hamilton.

Equity is an important value as defined by value statements for the City of Hamilton. If we consider the McNab Baptist Church on James St, the city supported the church building being torn down for future development with the foyer preserved for incorporation into a new structure some point in the future. This was not a full building heritage designation on a church building.

Secondly, St James Anglican Church on King and Queen was demolished, and new space incorporated for the church into the new building structure which included new housing. This church, which had more historical significance than Philpott Church, did not receive a notice of intention to designate the building. From this precedent standpoint, it seems inconsistent to designate the entire Philpott church building as heritage.

A sensible way forward would be to support the proposed heritage easement, rather than a full building designation to ensure that key elements, such as the church's pillars, stained-glass windows and wood floors, are salvaged and incorporated into the future building. This would be consistent with how the city has dealt with other urban churches and redevelopment.

As you are aware, in 2021 our congregation entered into a purchase and sale agreement with a developer who plans to build much-needed housing at our current site. At the same time, we were able to purchase the former Lincoln Alexander Centre on King St East and renovations are well underway. The purchase and sale agreement at our current site is scheduled to close in September 2024. A heritage designation on the entire building would clearly threaten the purchase and sale agreement and the future of the church.

## **5.12 (b)**

Philpott Church has served our community for past 130 years, with the building dating to 1901 and 1906. Philpott Church continues to play an important and expanding role in serving our city through significant initiatives to support the homeless, newcomers to Canada and refugees. We collaborate with and support the work of many downtown agencies and organizations. All buildings, including church buildings, have a certain season and economic life.

In summary, I would respectfully ask that the Notice of Intention to Designate Philpott Church be withdrawn and replaced by a motion to support a heritage easement for the reasons noted above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sidney Stacey  
Order of Hamilton 2023