



## Knox Presbyterian Church *Thedford*

November 28, 2021

### ***What's in a name?***

As promised, the elders of our church family received letters, had conversations, and various suggestions for names for our church. We took each one seriously, and the reflections people offered.

We shortlisted the various names, and now present to you that list, and the opportunity to vote.

Not surprisingly, people love this church and its history; and also want to ensure that our community knows the doors, and our hearts, are open to all with a warm welcome to worship, grow, laugh and live out what following Jesus is, together.

The short list of three names (in no particular order) is:

***Knox, Thedford A Community of Hope***

***Knox Church, Thedford, A Community of Hope***

***Knox Presbyterian Church, Thedford (no change)***

- ***Why Knox?***

'Knox' the name comes from the Scottish history of Presbyterianism. John Knox was a Scotsman, and a devout Christian. He became a "reformer", one among others (Calvin, Luther, Zwingli) who in the 16<sup>th</sup> century sought to bring about positive change in the church of the day, which he felt had lost its way and become a place of ritual rather than a passionate relationship with Jesus Christ, a reverence for the Bible, and a mission that engaged everyone, not just ordained priests. John Knox was a bold, passionate man whose life and work influenced Scottish history. When settlers from Scotland came to Canada, they brought faith with them, and build churches in their adopted land. Thus, the Presbyterian Church in Canada began, and was formally named so in 1875. Congregations also took names; St. Andrew's and Knox were the two most popular.

As early as 1851, Rev. John Scott began coming to our area and preaching to the pioneers who were establishing life and faith in their new home. By 1862, Rev. Peter Goodfellow was inducted as the minister at Knox Presbyterian Church, Widder, and served until 1872. In 1877, Rev. Hector Currie became the pastor, and under his leadership, and with the community moving to Thedford due to the railroad, land was purchased and Knox Church was built.

- **Why Thedford?**

Many expressed a desire to keep Thedford in the name, as a way of anchoring us to this community where God has placed us for many years.

- **What about “Presbyterian “ and “Church”?**

*Presbyterian* is a title describing how we organize ourselves...that we are led by “elders” (*Presbuteros in Greek*) called and elected by the congregation, not sent by a bishop, for example. Minister/pastors are “teaching elders”, called to teach the faith; those we commonly call ‘elders’ are “ruling elders” elected to serve and lead the congregation.

We are part of the Reformed Tradition, a branch of Protestantism that focuses on the glory and authority of God, and the authority of the Bible.

“*Church*” is a term that refers to a gathering of people joined to worship and serve Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The word has come to mean a place or building, but its genuine meaning is people, not a building.

Some feel that minimizing denomination labels is helpful as people are less knowledgeable about denominations. Some people may feel a denominational label discourages them from coming. Even the word “church” can have a mixed message, as the Church as a whole has some dark moments, actions and words that have wounded others and not reflected Christ well.

As noted in an earlier letter, we are **NOT** leaving the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We **are** a family of faith with people from many denominations and backgrounds, and some with no church involvement at all.

With the names suggested, we will not need to make changes with Revenue Canada for tax purposes, and adapting our current logo will be very simple.

**Now it’s your turn to vote!**

**Everyone who calls our church home is welcome to vote.** You may vote in the following ways:

- i) a note sent to Knox Presbyterian Church Box 56, Thedford ON N0M 2N0
- ii) an email sent to Wendy Moffat [kpcthedford@gmail.com](mailto:kpcthedford@gmail.com)
- iii) you can let your elder, or any elder know your choice verbally, in a phone call, written, text, etc.
- iv) you may bring your vote written on paper, sealed in an envelope to the church and place it in the designated box, at the entryway.

**Please vote by December 12, 2021. We will announce the new name on December 24.**

Thank you!

Pastor Chris and the Session of Knox

*PS Pastor Chris does not have a vote or say in this (or any other vote, for that matter.) I am honoured to serve here no matter what the name is!*