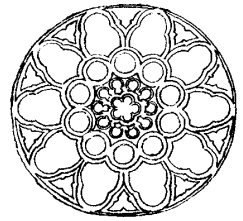


# St. Paul's United Church



123 Main St. E. Milton, Ontario L9T 1N4

*"The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose."*

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Dear Members of St. Paul's:

March 9, 2009

I am writing to you to advise that I have made a mistake. My error arose from misreading an email from Halton Presbytery outlining its position on the use of email or mail-in ballots.

As you know, at the Annual Meeting in February, a motion was made by the four Task Force Chairs to allow members of St. Paul's to vote by email or mail-in ballot on partnering with a developer. The congregation who saw it as a way to allow hospitalized, travelling or other absent members to cast their vote on this important issue unanimously approved this motion.

A Presbytery representative who attended the joint Council/Trustee meeting on February 26 alerted us to the fact that the United Church of Canada manual specifically states, "Voting by proxy or mail-in ballot is not permitted in the conduct of United Church Business". A subsequent re-reading of the original email from Presbytery confirmed that this was the advice that had been given to us prior to the February Annual Meeting.

I brought this matter before your Church Council on Sunday to get their advice on how to solve this problem. Council felt that, in light of the specific regulation in the Manual and the fact that Presbytery had advised us of this, we must adhere to United Church of Canada rules and therefore, could not allow email or mail-in ballots at the congregational vote.

Council and I also agreed to alert the members of St. Paul's of this fact immediately so that if members wished to arrange their affairs to be present at the church to cast their ballots, they could do so.

I deeply regret the error that has occurred and the disappointment to those who are physically unable to be at St. Paul's to vote. I hope that many of you are able to make arrangements to allow you to vote. I apologize to all for this mistake.

The four remaining information sessions **concerning the church redevelopment proposal** and voting dates are:

Information Sessions:	Wednesday, March 11	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
	<i>March Break – no information sessions</i>	
	Tuesday, March 24	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
	Monday, March 30	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Life Lease Presentation	Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sun.)	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
3 Congregational Vote Dates:	Wednesday, April 15	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
	Thursday, April 16	7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
	Sunday, April 19	9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Kathy Sellers  
Chair of Council