



April 8, 2014

Sent via email

Bob Kuhn, J.D.
President
Trinity Western University
7600 Glover Road
Langley, BC. V2Y 1Y1

Dear President Kuhn:

Re: Trinity Western University - Proposed Law School

Jan Lindsay, QC
President

In response to your recent inquiry regarding whether the Benchers meeting on April 11 will be recorded or transcribed and whether this will be made available to TWU, we can advise that the webcast will be recorded and a transcript will be created and both will be available to TWU after the meeting.

On a different note, one of the Benchers has raised whether TWU would consider the possibility of an amendment to that part of the Community Covenant that refers to sexual intimacy that violates the sacredness of marriage between a man and a woman. Depending on the course of discussion on April 11, it may be of assistance to the Benchers to know whether this is something TWU would consider. I would ask that you come to the April 11 meeting prepared for the possibility that this question may be put to you in the course of the meeting.

Thank you and we look forward to your attendance on April 11.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jan Lindsay".

Jan Lindsay, QC
President

AW/jac



April 10, 2014

Jan Lindsay Q.C.
President, the Law Society of British Columbia
845 Cambie Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 4Z9

Dear President Lindsay:

Thank you for your letter of April 8, 2014.

We were surprised at the suggestion that a “question may be put to [us]” at the April 11 meeting. Given that we were refused the opportunity to make oral submissions, (see our letter of March 7 and yours of March 11 in this regard) we understood that we were invited to the meeting as observers. We are not anticipating or preparing for oral submissions or other substantive interaction with the Benchers at the meeting.

We will take this opportunity to answer the specific question you raised about amending the Community Covenant. As with the other questions pertaining to the Community Covenant that we have answered in writing, it does not appear that the question or the answer will assist in determining whether TWU graduates will have sufficient academic qualifications. That said, we can respond as follows.

As it states, the Community Covenant is based on the TWU community’s

acceptance of the Bible as the divinely inspired, authoritative guide for personal and community life is foundational to its affirmation that people flourish and most fully reach their potential when they delight in seeking God’s purposes, and when they renounce and resist the things that stand in the way of those purposes being fulfilled. This ongoing God-enabled pursuit of a holy life is an inner transformation that actualizes a life of purpose and eternal significance. Such a distinctly Christian way of living finds its fullest expression in Christian love, which was exemplified fully by Jesus Christ, and is characterized by humility, self-sacrifice, mercy and justice, and mutual submission for the good of others.

This biblical foundation inspires TWU to be a distinctly Christian university in which members and others observe and experience truth, compassion, reconciliation, and hope.

It is an expression of the religious beliefs of TWU and its community that is necessary for TWU to live out its purposes as a Christian university. It is critical for TWU, as a private religious educational community, to be able to define its important religious values consistent with its biblical beliefs. TWU is a Christian university that primarily serves the evangelical Christian community (and that may include others that are prepared to learn in an environment of which the Community Covenant is an important part).

The religious beliefs about marriage and human sexuality are important enough to TWU's community to be included in the Community Covenant. It speaks of the sacredness of marriage, not for civic purposes but for religious purposes. This is partially because marriage between a man and woman is a metaphor and a reference point for Christ and his church; for marriage is spoken of throughout the Bible as a relationship between a man and a woman. It is not simply an issue of removing or amending words. It is an important part of what makes TWU a Christian community. Asking TWU to abandon this aspect of the Community Covenant is asking it to remove an important religious belief that has been part of traditional Christian teaching for centuries.

It should be beyond question that these beliefs were not created to communicate anything disparaging about members of the LGBTQ communities. The Community Covenant speaks to that most strongly in terms of treating all persons with "respect and dignity, and uphold their God-given worth". This is equally a fundamental aspect of TWU's religious beliefs.

TWU's sincerely held religious beliefs about marriage and human sexuality may not be widely held by others in society. As a result, these beliefs may not be valued, or even seen as legitimate. This is precisely why s.2(a) and s.15 of the *Charter* shield TWU's community from interference. The *Charter* shields TWU and allows it to define its own religious beliefs and values.

As set out in detail in TWU's written submissions, any requirement or condition that asks TWU to abandon or alter the Community Covenant would be an impermissible intrusion into the religious beliefs on which TWU is founded.

While the Community Covenant may be reviewed or adjusted by TWU from time to time, this would only be done to affirm and accord with the religious beliefs of TWU's community. Those religious beliefs include the ones articulated pertaining to marriage. TWU cannot simply disavow those beliefs in the hope or expectation of a positive result from the Benchers and should not be asked to do so.

Yours truly,



Bob Kuhn, J.D.
President

cc: K. Boonstra