December 14, 2020

Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students’ Association
47 Queen’s Park Cres E
Toronto, ON
M5S 2C3

Dear Bishop Andrews, Dr. Robinson, Mr. Henderson, and Members of the Wycliffe College Board of Trustees,

We are writing to you to voice our support of the letter circulated by Carolyn Mackie on October 29th, 2020 and signed by students, alumni, and friends of Wycliffe College. The letter expressed concern over the college’s insufficient response to attend to victims of sexual assault within the Wycliffe college community. Particularly disappointing for the victims, and for TGSA, is that Wycliffe has not yet, as of this writing, extended any care for or expressed their solidarity with the victims.

The letter called on the college to take up several action items in response to Wycliffe students’ experiences of sexual assault. The action items are: 1) the preparation of a comprehensive sexual misconduct and harassment policy, in consultation with professionals trained in caring for victims of sexual violence; 2) a person filling a pastoral care position who is fully trained in caring for those who have experienced sexual violence, conversant with the College’s policies, are prepared to take appropriate action on behalf of complainants, and who is not in a position of power over students’ grades, current ministry placements, or future career opportunities; 3) comprehensive training in how to respond appropriately to victims of sexual violence as part of the core curriculum at Wycliffe College, provided by an expert in this field outside of the College’s current staff and faculty and 4) comprehensive adherence by faculty and staff to refrain from gossip and treat all students with dignity, without engaging in speculation as to their sexual orientation or sexual activities.

As per our constitution, TGSA acts on behalf of and in the interest of the community of all graduate students at the Toronto School of Theology and is a forum for the expression of student concerns. As we represent all graduate students at Wycliffe
college, we see this issue to be of immediate concern to us as a student group and to the students we represent. Following these calls to action, it is TGSA’s responsibility to voice our support for the students, alumni, and friends of Wycliffe College who signed the letter referenced above; and to also hold Wycliffe College accountable to ensuring that the action items expressed in the letter are carried out to their completion.

This letter of support comes in a spirit of goodwill and of hope—believing Wycliffe to be a place that deeply cares about the dignity and well-being of its students—continually striving to being a community of Christ-followers who continually and actively seek the flourishing of its members. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Toronto School of Theology Graduate Students’ Association
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