

Churches Conflicted over Scouts' Policy Change on Gays

June 25, 2013

By Anna Boiko-Weyrauch, Seattle Times staff reporter

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: If we had been sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop, we would have ceased doing so as a result of their policy change. If I had a son(s) in Boy Scouts, I would pull them out and work with other dads to continue the teachings without exposing them to the hazards that this decision brings to the Boy Scout environment.

We are certainly entering the last days that Jesus warned us about, when He said the wickedness in the world would be like the days of Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17 and Genesis 18-19) and that judgment (when it came) would be sudden.

2 Peter 2:5-10 -- and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, **making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly**; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds) — then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and **especially** those who walk according to the flesh **in the lust of uncleanness** and despise authority. NKJV



MARCUS YAM / The Seattle Times

Boy Scouts recite the Pledge of Allegiance in the gym at Cedar Park Church in Bothell, which no longer wants to be part of the Scouts.

While most area churches are continuing to sponsor Scouting troops under a new policy that gay children must be allowed to join, three churches are ending their sponsorships while other churches, and some Scouting families, are conflicted by the change.

At a recent meeting at a church gym in Bothell, Boy Scouts in identical blue neckerchiefs and “Troop 574” patches discussed summer camp as their parents arranged carpools and cookout recipes for a weekend trip. The boys heard rules for what to bring — no iPods — and what time to be ready for the ferry — 9 a.m. What was not on the agenda, at least not officially: recent changes to Boy Scout policy allowing openly gay Scouts to join. Still, the topic was unavoidable, and one cluster of boys found themselves talking about it on the sidelines.

Troop 574 is sponsored by the evangelical Cedar Park Church in Bothell, one of three churches in the Puget

Sound area that has decided to part ways with the Boy Scouts over the policy change. Grace Christian Fellowship in Mount Vernon will also end sponsorship.

The same decision by a Roman Catholic Church in Bremerton, Our Lady Star of the Sea, has prompted an online petition by a national advocacy group, Catholics United, that views the church’s decision as discriminatory and likely to alienate young people from the faith. The group will present the petition to the Archdiocese of Seattle on Friday. Most sponsoring churches in the Puget Sound area appear to be ...

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2021263509_churchesscoutingxml.html