

Church of Christ on campus

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Kellow said.

"The group's beliefs have nothing to do with our actions. It's their methods we disagree with."

Chief of security Sandy MacDonald says that as far as he knows, the group has done

nothing to warrant any action on the part of security.

"As long as everyone acts appropriately there is no need for intervention," he said.

Although Student Services have received no complaints, they have heard talk

of a religious group soliciting on campus.

"It's a sensitive issue. There are certain important freedoms on both sides. There's the right to hold and advance views and the right to peace and quiet and to be left alone," said Eric McKee,

vice-president of Student Services.

"The campus is an open place, but it's not legally public. The right to advance views and ideas is guarded."

But Dalhousie is not the first campus the Church of Christ has used to recruit new members. Universities across Canada and the United States have also dealt with the religious group.

"We've had people complain that they were approached and harassed, and people were calling their home," said Pam Persaud at York University Student Affairs. "People often give [out their] phone numbers because they think this is a friend."

"They usually approach this time of year, to first year students and new Canadians who look lost or alone."

York combatted its complaints with an existing presidential regulation regarding student harassment. Applied to the soliciting of the Church of Christ, harassment is defined by further contact after a student has refused to attend a meeting.

If a student is doing the soliciting, they are asked to stop, or they can be punished under this regulation. If the solicitor is not a student, they can be removed from campus.

"They've argued people can approach others to sell an item, so they can approach people to come to a meeting," Persaud said.

"Unless we get complaints, we can't do anything. They have lawyers and an office set up off-campus."

Kevin Robins is the minister for the Halifax-Dartmouth Church of Christ. He is upset by allegations his church members were harassing students.

"A [member of] my con-

gregation told me he is no longer allowed in the Student Union Building because he received complaints about sharing his faith on campus. I was very concerned. I gave him the advice not to go back in the building. As far as I know he has not."

He says the members of his church feel it is their responsibility to invite others to attend their church services if there is any chance that this person may want to attend.

"We don't know who might be interested," he said. "It's too bad everyone who is interested couldn't wear a green shirt or something, but they can't."

Robins also says the harassment claims are ridiculous. He says they go against the basic beliefs of the church, and if any church members are using forceful recruitment techniques, he knows nothing about it.

"I disagree. I disagree [that] it happened here at Dalhousie. I find it very hard to believe. If it really was harassment an arrest can be made and it's never been done. A lot of people just don't like being invited to church."

"I don't think there's a harassment issue on campus. I think there's an invitation issue on campus."

He also denies that any members of his congregation have been making harassing phone calls.

"I find that honestly very hard to believe. Honestly I believe that has to be a lie. That goes against everything I believe. That goes against dignity."

"I think [the case] was someone who once wanted to study the Bible and later decided it wasn't what they wanted to do and stopped returning calls."

Media

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blame for sensationalism?

Leppard: I think it is the media who try to sensationalize things. There was a reporter from the US who was sitting in on the first news conference after the accident and her main focus was on what kind of condition the body parts were in. I mean, that's just inappropriate. Canadians just don't do that kind of thing and that's why you don't see a lot of trash maga-

zine shows or crazy media sensational things happening here in Canada. Several people who were at the press conference turned around and told her to shut up.

It's clear that many citizens agree with Leppard and value privacy over in-depth news coverage — one passerby didn't hesitate to interrupt the interview, thinking I was hounding a grieving family member.

I felt a little guilty for some reason, even though I didn't do anything wrong.

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