

## **UPDATE from the Joint Amalgamation Team (JAT)**

**May 5, 2023**

Our group, now named the *Joint Amalgamation Team*, met on April 30 for the second time. Here are some reminders about our work and an update on plans for May.

### **Who are we?**

The contact list of our team is posted at the end of this update and on each church's bulletin boards, or you may ask our office staff for this information. We currently have our chair Rev. Carolyn Woodall plus 9 voting members. One update is that Cintra Kanhai has stepped down from our group, but is still willing to assist in other ways.

### **What is our purpose?**

1. to create a framework (a memorandum of understanding and a partnership plan) for amalgamation decisions as they evolve
2. to work out how we will begin to worship as one faith community this coming September

### **How are we making decisions?**

We have chosen to work by consensus most often, also using motions and voting as required. For equitable representation each time we vote, we will have a maximum of 4 votes from Wesley reps and 4 votes from Sunset reps. If required, we decide at the start of our meetings who will be non-voting.

### **What decisions has JAT made so far?**

Naming our future community of faith formally is a long way down the road. However, for now, our team quickly reached consensus on an interim name. We will start referring to ourselves as the **"South Regina United Community"**, rather than falling back on a version of Sunset-Wesley or Wesley-Sunset in our name. We expect this will feel awkward for a time!

### **Why this name, and why not ask more people to contribute ideas?**

- We want to support a future focus and an inclusive mindset (not "us" and "them"), and so we decided an interim name for our joint faith community would be helpful.
- We won't be a formal new entity as an amalgamated church for some time yet – likely at least a year or more. This is why the term "United Church" is not in the interim name.
- When we know more about decisions and required formalities prior to amalgamation, we'll include all community members in a naming process.

### **What work is required throughout May?**

JAT members are reaching out to many individuals during the week of May 1 to invite them to participate in "task teams" on readiness activities before this coming September. We are providing a guide for those task groups explaining their purpose and inviting their questions.

Some examples of work areas for the task teams:

- House Groups
- Building Contents
  - Kitchens
  - Banners
  - Worship Furnishings
  - Other TBD
- Worship Committee and Christian Education
- Community Service Committee/Social Justice
- Affirming Committee
- Ministry and Personnel Committee
- Finance Committee and Financial Arrangements

A new question we heard recently:

***Q: How much change is required for each community of faith? It seems like Wesley people are making all the changes.***

A: Both communities need to make significant changes to live in alignment with our mission statements and to make this transition successful. While it is true that Wesley people are experiencing the major loss of ending their community of faith as it was, and of moving out of their building, Sunset people must also “let go” and prepare for many changes still to be defined.

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Thank you for bringing the Joint Amalgamation Team your questions or concerns. This helps us to address areas needing more work to help us all through our transitions.

**Joint Amalgamation Team (JAT) Contact List:**

Name	Email	Phone
Rev. Carolyn Woodall (chair until July)	<a href="mailto:wesleyuc.carolyn@sasktel.net">wesleyuc.carolyn@sasktel.net</a>	639-590-5668 cell
Bryan Tudor (Sunset & Wesley Transition)	<a href="mailto:bryantudor89@gmail.com">bryantudor89@gmail.com</a>	306-789-3250
Carol Chernishenko (W)	<a href="mailto:shenkoc@gmail.com">shenkoc@gmail.com</a>	306-781-5610
Dave Towers (S) Vice-Chair Sunset Board	<a href="mailto:poppadave@sasktel.net">poppadave@sasktel.net</a>	306-960-7946 cell
Lenore Bewcyk (W) Vice-Chair Wesley Council	<a href="mailto:lwb01@sasktel.net">lwb01@sasktel.net</a>	639 560-3108 cell 306 584-3128 home
Linda Gunningham (W)	<a href="mailto:lindag@sasktel.net">lindag@sasktel.net</a>	--
Marina Jeffery (S)	<a href="mailto:marinaj@accesscomm.ca">marinaj@accesscomm.ca</a>	306-530-1109 cell
Nancy McBean (S)	<a href="mailto:mcbeann@gmail.com">mcbeann@gmail.com</a>	306-584-7662
Pam Thomas (W)	<a href="mailto:pjthomas@sasktel.net">pjthomas@sasktel.net</a>	306-775-1773 home 306-533-4884 cell
Sheila Roske (W)	<a href="mailto:sheilaroske@gmail.com">sheilaroske@gmail.com</a>	306-584-9722