

UPDATE

from the Wesley-Sunset joint planning committee for amalgamation

April 14, 2023

Our Wesley-Sunset joint planning committee met on April 12/23 for the first time. Here are some key facts about our work.

Who are we?

- Our chair until her role ends in July is Rev. Carolyn Woodall, Intentional Interim Minister, Wesley United Church. She also serves from the perspective of Living Skies Regional Council.
- Our Wesley representatives: Carol Chernishenko, Cintra Kanhai, Lenore Bewcyk, Linda Gunningham, Pam Thomas, Sheila Roske
- Our Sunset representatives: Bryan Tudor, Dave Towers, Marina Jeffery, Nancy McBean

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 will we make 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.
- As the planning framework takes shape, we will invite others from our congregations to participate in various tasks and decision-making, and host congregational meetings and votes as required.

...continued page 2

What is in the scope of our committee's work?

We will work on addressing these “big buckets” of tasks with our two current church Councils/ Boards and existing/new committees as needed:

1. Council structure/re-structuring
2. Finances
3. Building decisions
4. Building content decisions – e.g., kitchens, libraries, worship furnishings and supplies, banners
5. Staffing decisions and clarifications as required
6. Other needs we may not have identified yet!

What can you expect from our committee?

- Regular updates on our progress, such as this newsletter's highlights
- Invitations to others to participate in readiness activities before this coming September
- Reminders of ***what we know*** (i.e., the above facts, and that we are working towards making our initial long-term commitment more comfortable and familiar for both communities of faith) and ***what we don't know yet*** (i.e., the outcomes of future decisions or details of how amalgamation may take shape in the future.)
- Regular Q&A opportunities: please send any questions to your church office to forward to our committee. For example:

Q: Why is Wesley's minister Rev. Carolyn Woodall on this joint implementation committee for amalgamation?

A: The nature of intentional interim ministers is inherently to represent both Regional Council and the congregation they serve – in fact, this is the case for all ministers. The training for intentional interim ministers is specifically focussed on facilitating change and transition, and ways to both acknowledge and manage anxiety related to that change and transition in church systems.

Our joint planning team found in our first meeting that we were united in our commitment to serve both Wesley and Sunset people in a way that honours both sorrow and optimism, and we were also united in our hope that this opportunity will grow our community of faith. **Please reach out to any of us to talk about preparing ourselves for this change.** We will provide our individual contact info before our next update.