

## **JAT UPDATE**

**November 17, 2023**

**from Joint Amalgamation Team (JAT), South Regina United Community  
(Wesley and Sunset United communities working toward amalgamation)**

### **What happened at our November 12 Transitions meeting?**

- After worship, about 50 people attended a special gathering until 2:15 pm. They enjoyed JAT's homemade chili lunch (even homemade buns, muffins and cookies!!), listened to guest speakers and talked about our transition experiences.
- We especially thank Trina Hodgson and Christa Eidsness for planning this event. The purpose was to acknowledge the losses that are part of our amalgamation journey and to help us to look hopefully to the future.
- Christa opened the session with some words on "Holy Manners" from our United Church of Canada Manual and also shared an illustrated book called *Little Tree*, an engaging analogy on the themes of letting go.
- Rev. Jim Tenford moderated a panel of three individuals who had experienced a church closure in the past. Thank you to guests Rev. Darrell Reine of Westminster United (formerly board chair with St. John's United), Pam Norman (formerly with Whitmore Part United) and Phil Moleski (formerly with Rosemont United). The topics were on the dispersal of property, their experience of community after the closure, and their advice for us as we continue toward amalgamation.
- Trina spoke about the grieving process: it's not linear; we won't go through it in unison (!); it can be a "messy" time. We need to continue to support each other as we each make our own way through this change.
- Guest Shawn Fraser (formerly with Carmichael Outreach and currently CEO of SK John Howard Society) spoke about the transition made by Carmichael United to become Carmichael Outreach. He noted the United Church's history of building on tradition while adapting for the future.

We plan to make recordings available of the speaker portions of the meeting. Call 306-586-3613 to inquire. (Table discussions were not recorded.) We also expect to host more conversations to connect us in sharing experiences and becoming a new community together.

### **Planned for the remainder of November:**

- On November 29, our JAT meeting will focus on developing a potential new governance structure for an amalgamated church. In early 2024, the Wesley Council and Sunset Boards will both be engaged in shaping new governance.

- We will also discuss forming Hospitality Teams for support of events like funerals or special meals. At our November 12 meeting, there were a few offers of help in the kitchen (special thanks to Jean Cameron who cheerfully took over dish washing so JAT could stay in the meeting!) so we are confident this concept will readily take shape.

**JAT thanks you for your feedback and your support so far. In the time leading up to Christmas, we hope to focus mainly on settling into our worship and work together and to continue to get to know new people in our faith community.**

**PLEASE help us with communications: please remind each other there are regular online newsletters and to check your church bulletin board for posters.**

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### **Joint Amalgamation Team**

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