



CONGREGATIONAL COMMUNICATION – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Heartfelt greetings to all of you from everyone on the Amalgamation Steering and Implementation Team!

“It is time to Celebrate!!”

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, a historical and important vote was taken in all of our four Hamilton Lutheran churches. Over a 2/3 majority in each congregation voted “Yes” to Amalgamation! A total of 251 votes were cast, and of those, 201 voted in favour.

With the amalgamation of St. John’s, Faith, and Transfiguration, Trinity Lutheran Church is born! It will come into being officially on April 1, 2020.

The members of Grace voted to join us later, in July 2021, after their leaseback is finished and due diligence satisfied.

After many hours, months, and years of hard work and preparation, the mandate of the Hamilton Lutheran Amalgamation Task Force and Steering Team is complete. Now, a temporary Transition Board has been formed to continue the work and ensure that all required tasks are completed by May 31, 2020.

As decided, this Transition Board is made up of three members from each of the amalgamated congregations, plus two “observers with voice” from Grace.

The members are:

- From St. John’s: Mike Schuster, Mark Weingartner & Barb Alken
- From Faith: Gerry Storbeck, Cathy Calvin, & Gail Bennie
- From Transfiguration: Judy Lindeman, Shirley Ouellette, & Lynne Shanks
- “Observers with Voice” from Grace: Sparrow Rabideau & Melody Van Veen

Pastors Thomas, Daniela, and Loretta will be ex-officio members of the Transition Board. Working group committees will again be formed to continue work in all the areas needed.

As this will be our last official Congregational Communication, we would like to extend some well-deserved **thank-yous....**

...**to the representatives from TUCC**, Ron Ewart and Janet Marshall who have guided us through this Amalgamation process with wisdom and honesty; and to Jill Strapp who lead us through our first joint Community Roundtable.

...**to Reverend Doug Reble**, assistant to the Bishop, our faithful and wise representative from the Synod office,

...**to Pastor Chun**, who has prayed with others during our meetings and then gave further spiritual support to us within our meetings,

... **to all committee members** who gave many hours of their time attending meetings and longer working group sessions. Your input was invaluable in leading us to this goal.

....**and to you**, our faithful and patient congregational members, who have listened, read, questioned, and prayed for us during this entire process.

We have a Plan, approved by the majority in all congregations, and now it is time to start putting that plan into action, to formalize our ideas and make more definite decisions. Regardless of how you voted, we are all valued members of the Lutheran churches in Hamilton. We therefore encourage everyone to embrace the decision of the majority and move forward with us in this continuing process. Only by working together will we be able to achieve our many goals.

God is good. He sustains us all. He has walked with us on this journey and lead us through some rough patches. We pray now for his continued love and guidance as we endeavour to build a new and vibrant Lutheran Church presence in Hamilton.

(From the Hamilton Lutheran Steering and Implementation Team)

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