



Newsletter

July 31, 2018, Issue 2

Getting to Know You



As these photos show, the joint summer services have been a great opportunity for both congregations to get to know each other better. They have been well attended with everyone enjoying the sermons of Christ Church's Youth & Families Minister, Mark Chown, as well as the post-service lemonade under the trees.

Just a gentle reminder that beginning August 5th to September 2nd, the traditional summer services will be held at First United at 10 AM. The 902 Express contemporary service will continue to be held at Christ Church.



Who We Are...

And speaking of "getting to know you", here are snapshots of our two churches to give you an idea of how we compare.

First United at a Glance...

Age of Church: 192 years old

Number of Members: 172

Average Sunday Attendance: 77

Congregational Givings: \$220,300

Church Personnel

Senior Minister: Rev. Ken MacDonald (Half-time)

Office Administrator: Christine Barlow

Choral Director - TBA

Christ Church at a Glance...

Age of Church: 192 years old

Number of Members: 421

Average Sunday Attendance: 120

Congregational Givings: \$395,537 (2017)

Church Personnel

Senior Minister: Under Recruitment

Youth & Families Minister: Mark Chown

Office Administrator: Karen Matthews

Directors of Music: Greg McCausland (9:02 Service)

Jane Christmas Wamsley (10:30 Service)

Custodial Staff: John Dymond & Jessie Kennedy

More Questions & Answers

What has been happening with amalgamation planning during July?

Presbytery has asked the two congregations to develop a Constitution that reflects the Mission, Purpose, Vision and Core Values of the "new church" should Christ Church and First United amalgamate. The Committee Chairs of both congregations have been meeting over the past month to assist in developing a structure of governance that best reflects the Mission, Purpose, Vision and Core Values of the "new church". In keeping with this initiative the Committee Chairs have also been meeting with a view to refreshing the mandates of each committee to ensure that these mandates are in line with the Core Values of the "new church".

To ensure that the new church is operationally sound and on a solid financial footing, we have put together a team that will be analyzing the combined financial and volunteer resources of the new entity. This is an important aspect of our review as the new church needs an effective and efficient go-forward plan in order to achieve its Vision.

How are we working with Presbytery during this period?

Because Christ Church does not currently have an ordained minister, Christ Church Council is working with Rev. Lena Medeiros who has been assigned by Presbytery to attend all Christ Church governance meetings such as Council Meetings, Executive Committee meetings etc., to ensure that the work of the church continues. Rev. Jeff Werner has been assigned by Presbytery as our Pastoral Relations Committee representative. Jeff will assist in our search for a Supply Minister and will also help us in expediting the "Call" for a permanent minister.

Rev. Steve Huntley is Co-Chair of the Pastoral Oversight Committee. In addition to supporting us through the amalgamation process, Steve will be attending all congregational meetings in order to answer any technical questions from Presbytery's perspective that the congregation may have. First United has been involved with the search for a Supply Minister and will also be involved in the search for a new minister.

Are there more opportunities in the fall for Christ Church and First United members to get to know each other?

Yes. First United members will be invited to the Christ Church Chicken Barbecue on September 16. More details to come.

When is the vote?

Our current timetable is to have the vote conducted at Christ Church and at First United on Sunday, October 28, 2018. Notices regarding the meeting will be circulated for the two weeks prior to the meeting date.

What will happen to the First United building on Lakeshore?

Once the amalgamation has taken place, the Council and Trustees of the new congregation will make a decision about the First United building. In the meantime a committee is evaluating the financial implications of selling or retaining the building. Possible ways the new congregation can engage in community outreach initiatives that utilize the building will also be considered in making the final decision.

Why was the Christ Church site chosen over First United?

Christ Church is a much more active congregation with two services, a Sunday school and many active groups. First United does not have the physical space to accommodate this activity. Christ Church also has sufficient parking in close proximity to the building. Ways to address the lack of transit accessibility are under consideration.

How will the structure of Worship Services be determined?

The Worship Committee of the new congregation, in conjunction with the Ministers and music leadership will determine the elements that will be included in each worship service. The chair of the Christ Church Worship Committee and the Convener of the First United Spiritual Development Group are meeting to ensure there is input from both existing congregations.

When would First United actually start worshipping at Christ Church?

Likely in early January 2019. First United is still planning how to appropriately conclude their time at that location.

Who do I talk to if I have questions about the amalgamation?

We encourage you to bring your questions to the co-chairs of the Joint Amalgamation Committee.

First United members: Contact Ed Mock at ed.mock@computer.org

Christ Church members: Contact Steve Shaver at sshaver@whiteshedcapital.ca