

Joint Amalgamation Team 2024 Report

for *Harmony United Church* Annual Congregational Meeting held March 2, 2025

The work of the Joint Amalgamation Team concluded in December 2024

JAT was formed in April 2023 for two purposes: first, to create a framework (a memorandum of understanding and a partnership plan) for amalgamation decisions as they evolved, and a second shorter-term purpose, to work out how we would begin to worship as one faith community September 2023. Both those goals were achieved in 2023.

Throughout 2024 JAT worked further to finalize amalgamation plans:

1. In January, we hosted a **congregational online survey** of our South Regina United Community (our interim name) for input on the steps ahead, and we shared a summary report with all.
2. Following this input, we prepared Wesley Council and Sunset Board for a **motion to authorize further progress on amalgamation** at their respective annual general meetings in March.
3. We proposed an **approach for organizing hospitality volunteers** whenever our community was serving food or beverages at events.
4. We developed an **approach for choosing our community's new name**. We gathered feedback in person and used an online survey tool.
5. In June, we invited our community to submit ideas for a **new logo** either in person or through an online survey tool.
6. We drafted **recommended governance structure** for a new council that was provided to and accepted by the Sunset Board and Wesley Council; and in December we added a **roles descriptions** document to accompany that structure.
7. We planned the logistics for these **congregational gatherings**:
 - May 5 workshop led by Pamela Thomas on the topic of naming churches and seeking input from attendees
 - June 2 formal congregational meetings to authorize amalgamation (See note below)
 - September 15 community-building service and workshop led by Rev. Jordan Cantwell, a Growth Animator for the United Church of Canada
 - October 27 worship service led by Rev. Jim Tenford included getting input from the congregation to help us draft a new mission statement
8. We served as the **nominations committee** to find those in our community willing to form the new Harmony United Church Council.
9. We planned a December 15 joint meeting for the Wesley Council, Sunset Board and all nominees for the new Harmony United Church Council to prepare nominees for tasks in 2025.

We drafted an agenda for a congregational meeting January 12, 2025, at which time nominees will be presented.
10. We submitted documentation at each milestone to gain approvals from the Living Skies Regional Council.

The importance of our first congregational meeting as Harmony United Church, June 2, 2024

- In March, each of Sunset and Wesley faith communities had voted at their Annual General Meetings to proceed with the final steps toward amalgamation.
- Authorized by these motions to move ahead, JAT under Rev. Jim's guidance, planned the events of June 2.
- Each of Sunset and Wesley communities first met separately to vote on whether to proceed with amalgamation.
- With both communities voting to proceed, we then came together as one community in a celebratory worship service to mark this step in our journey and to choose our new name. *Harmony United Church* became our unofficial name until such time as the legal and financial transitions take place in early 2025.
- A full report on the June 2 events was filed in the office for the archives.

JAT meetings: Our Wesley-Sunset joint committee met 11 times in 2023, and 12 times in 2024, with occasional additional online or in-person informal conversations as needed. We continued throughout 2024 to make decisions by consensus. Although we were always prepared for motions and voting if required, we never did use that method, a testament to our teamwork and shared purpose!

JAT communications:

- We delivered regular communications on our progress, through ongoing e-newsletter items, announcements before worship services, posters in the west foyer and word of mouth.
- Many thanks to Office Coordinator Polly Williams-Olesen who assisted in publications in the e-newsletter, and to Donna Hudson who also supported Wesley in their communications.
- Our interim website for South Regina United Community was replaced with a new one for Harmony United Church <https://harmonyuc.ca/> - again, we thank Polly for making this happen.
- Emphasized often was a reminder to make financial contributions to Wesley or Sunset United, until our new name would be made official in 2025.

Joint Amalgamation Team representatives

Remarkably, except for the planned departure of Rev. Carolyn Woodall in July 2023, our team membership remained constant until the end of our work together.

Rev. Jim Tenford (Sunset and Wesley)	Linda Gunningham (W)
Bryan Tudor (Sunset)	Marina Jeffery (S)
Carol Chernishenko (Wesley)	Nancy McBean (S)
Dave Towers (S) Vice-Chair, Sunset Board	Pamela Thomas (W)
Lenore Bewcyk (W) President, Wesley Council	Sheila Roske (W)

In closing, JAT shared after our first meeting in April 2023 that we were all united in our commitment to serve both Wesley and Sunset people in a way that would honour both

sorrow and optimism, and we were also united in our hope that this opportunity would grow our community of faith. At the time of our second annual report's delivery almost two years later, we still feel grateful for all the support we have experienced, and we are very pleased to dissolve JAT and welcome a new Harmony United Church Council in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy McBean and Sheila Roske, JAT co-chairs
Marina Jeffery, JAT recorder