

VESTRY COMMUNICATION TO IMMANUEL PARISHIONERS

October 22, 2021

Vestry is pleased to announce that at an October 6, 2021 special meeting, they passed the following motion:

To accept the recommendation in the Facilities Working Group Discussion Paper for Immanuel to settle into our Massey Road location as our primary worship site and that further, Vestry undertake a ministry, missional growth, and financial sustainability review in October 2023.

The following provides some background information leading up to the motion passed at the October 6 meeting and some anticipated questions and responses to those questions.

Since February 2020 when the Facilities Working Group was established, the group has worked hard in doing due diligence in the process leading up to recommending a permanent worship site for Immanuel.

The working group has done surveys and collected information and input from many sources: congregations of the five former parishes, vestries, wardens, working groups, the Immanuel Parish Council, and the current Immanuel Vestry. A variety of parish facility comparisons, decision matrix, analyses and requirements for a new Immanuel Anglican Parish have been completed. All of this information, with recommendations, has been approved by Parish Council or Immanuel Vestry in order to enable their work, leading up to the motion presented to Vestry on October 6, 2021.

Q. What does this motion mean?

R. It means that Massey Road is officially recognized as the primary worship site for Immanuel until October 2023 at which point a review will be done.

It means having a primary worship site and bringing stability for ministries to have the space needed to flourish and the Spirit to bring forth the potential in our new parish. It means giving time for building relationships and community, revitalizing previous programming and ministries, and exploring new ministry opportunities.

Q. Why was Massey Road not made the permanent worship site?

R. Recognizing the location as the primary rather than the permanent worship site will give us time to pause, step back, look around and see if the location can fulfil the needs that we have, and continue to have as we move forward, or if God may be calling us to move to another location.

Q. Why the two-year approach?

R. COVID started the same time as the five parishes started their journey in February 2020 to come together as one parish. Nothing was normal about the process and the work of the five parishes coming together. It is difficult enough for a well-established parish to start coming back together as a community after 18 months, let alone five different and distinct congregations that have joined

together on paper. Many members are just getting the chance now to meet one another in person, while wearing a mask and social distancing.

Time is needed to:

- establish and consolidate our membership base with both existing ministries and new ministries championed by clergy and volunteers.
- solidify our revenue and cash flow through existing and new revenue sources in order to reach a balanced and sustainable operating budget.
- identify the capital budget and funding required to repurpose the Massey Road property to meet the requirements if it were to become the permanent worship site.
- provide additional time to monitor the real estate market to identify a possible viable site option for Immanuel to relocate. Up to this point there has not been much on the market that meets Immanuel's needs.
- give opportunity to evaluate our position at the Living Spirit Centre, which could involve its potential as a permanent worship site.

The two-year time will help provide a firmer sense of direction and measure of stability for members.

Q. What will happen in October 2023?

R. A review of where we have come and where we feel Immanuel is heading will take place. The review will look at ministries that are in place, growth in the broadest sense that has happened, and financial sustainability going forward.

Q. What is happening with the Living Spirit Centre?

R. The Living Spirit Centre has been identified as a satellite location. A small group of clergy and lay representatives from Immanuel, Bread of Life Lutheran and Eastside United are having conversations on the partnership agreement. Discussions have started on the types of ministries that could take place at the Living Spirit Centre, e.g., Indigenous ministries and/or worship services, Messy Church for families – check out Messy Church on the website <https://immanuelanglicanregina.ca/?page=79>

Q. Has the Winnipeg Street property (formerly St. Matthew) been sold?

R. The Winnipeg Street property went up for sale on September 23 with a bid process closing date of October 25.

Q. When will the Argyle Road property (formerly St. Luke) be put up for sale?

R. The realtor, Avison Young, has listed the Argyle Road property for sale on October 13 with a bid process closing date of November 4.

As always, questions and comments are welcome info@immanuelanglicanregina.ca