

## **Survey Results!**

On the Question of Amalgamation

**Thank you** to everyone for participating in the survey after our joint service in November. Please stay tuned for further information and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

~ With gratitude, from the Joint Amalgamation Committee (JAC) of Emmanuel and Trinity  
Peter Darling, Elizabeth Powell, Jackie Powell, Carol Mutton, Ted Harvey, (Trinity United)  
Dave Stephenson, Lyn Miller, Brian James, Martin Deeley, (Emmanuel United)

### **How many surveys were filled out?**

26 from Emmanuel

48 from Trinity

12 not indicated which church

### **What were the questions?**

Two questions on the survey asked participants to rank their feelings about the possibility of amalgamation from 1 (negative) to 10 (positive):

1. I am likely to vote in favour of the amalgamation of Trinity and Emmanuel.
2. I am comfortable in making a decision about the future of Trinity/Emmanuel.

We also asked people for suggestions to help them be more comfortable with the idea of amalgamation.

### **What were the results?**

Question 1: Likely to vote in favour ( those ranks 7-10):

- 77% at Emmanuel likely to vote in favour
- 49 % at Trinity likely to vote in favour

**Of the twelve (12) who did not indicate which church they were a member of, eleven (11) indicated that they were likely to vote in favour**

Question 2: Comfort level in making a decision:

- Please note there was no difference in overall results between the two questions; comfort level and likelihood to vote in favour were the same.

There were many great suggestions from people that we have addressed in the following chart:

Survey Suggestions	JAC response
<p><b>A transparent process for the selection of a building and a recommendation at the time of the vote.</b> Many comments included concerns about the usability, accessibility, parking and sufficient, appropriate space of both buildings</p>	<p>A comparable structural assessment of Trinity is underway and will be completed shortly. A sub-committee of JAC, with additional membership from each congregation, is undertaking a space needs analysis. A comparison of the various elements of Trinity and Emmanuel (George Street) buildings will be completed. JAC will recommend a preferred location prior to the vote.</p>
<p><b>Clarity in the process for selecting future staff for an amalgamated congregation.</b> Important concerns were raised about support for existing staff, and the desire for a fair and well defined selection process</p>	<p>First, JAC understands that this is a very sensitive and difficult time for staff. So, with the leadership of each congregation’s Ministry and Personnel Committee, every effort will be made to keep staff informed and supported throughout the process. If the vote on amalgamation is supported, new job descriptions that meet requirements of the new vision and mission will be developed and open competitions (in accordance with United Church of Canada policy) will take place.</p>
<p><b>Recognition that the recent amalgamation at Emmanuel is still an ongoing process</b></p>	<p>We are pleased to say the EUC congregation is in the process of coming together better now, more united, but has taken longer than anticipated.</p>
<p><b>An understanding of the inherent uncertainty in amalgamating Trinity and Emmanuel congregations.</b> Concerns with financial ability to sustain the congregations; fatigue from ongoing processes, and energy levels needed to complete another amalgamation. Financial management must ensure that the congregation can sustain itself</p>	<p>First, like many churches nowadays, both congregations are struggling to meet current operating revenue requirements. JAC will estimate realistically how long an amalgamated congregation could sustain itself. It will also develop an outline of the types of activities /programs that should be undertaken to realise the Vision and Mission, and to create a renewed, growing sustainable congregation. In preparing for the outcome of the vote, JAC and each church council will outline the steps to be taken if the vote is ‘yes’, and what will happen if there is a ‘no’ vote.</p>
<p><b>Clarity with treatment of trust funds.</b> What is the process for determining how trust funds will be treated as part of the amalgamation?</p>	<p>In accordance with the policies of the United Church of Canada, if each congregation votes ‘yes’ to amalgamation, all trust funds will go to the new amalgamated congregation.</p>