

Amalgamation Information

May 2020

What is Amalgamation?

Amalgamation in the United Church of Canada is the uniting, in all aspects, of two (or more) congregations into a single, new community of faith.

In effect, both congregations agree separately to dissolve and form a new community of faith. This is done by vote of the individual congregations.

Why Do Communities of Faith Choose to Amalgamate?

Communities of faith choose to unite as a single entity because they believe, separately and collectively, that their core values are aligned and that their mission and vision can be best achieved by combining resources and ministries. The new community collectively believes that together it is stronger, more capable and better equipped to carry out God's plan than either of the individual congregations. Amalgamation is not a "takeover" of one congregation by another or even a merger of assets and ministries. It is the forging of a new community of faith that respects the legacy of each of the parts while looking to the future with enhanced capabilities that aspire to a new mission and vision.

What Are The Implications Of Amalgamation? (Not in order of timing or importance)

- A new mission, vision and a set of core values are adopted to describe the beliefs, purpose and aspirations of the new community of faith. Common short and long term goals for the new community are established.
- A new name for the community of faith is chosen. Signage, web site presence, logos, letterheads, social media, etc. are designed and put in place to reflect the values, mission, vision and goals of the new community of faith.
- All members of the previous congregations become members of the new community of faith. Adherents automatically become associated with the new community.
- A consolidated communications strategy is put in place.
- All assets of both congregations are merged into the new community. (some assets, by agreement, may have specific conditions)
- All financial resources (income, expenses, debt, obligations, receivables, bank accounts, investment accounts, etc.) are merged into the new community. A single charter of accounts is established. The new community of faith is registered with the United Church, CRA and the Provincial government. New signing officers and financial protocols are put in place.
- A single governance body (Council) is elected to govern the affairs of the new community of faith.
- Single governance processes are established to manage the affairs of the new community. Committees of Council are established, combined and consolidated to meet the needs of the new community of faith.
- A single Board of Trustees is established to oversee the management of assets.
- Facilities (land, buildings, offices etc.) are optimized to meet the needs and objectives of the new community
- Programming and ministries are, over time, selected and designed to meet the needs and objectives of the the new community. Many programs are continued with broader participation and reach. Some individual programs are consolidated to avoid duplication and increase reach and effectiveness. Some programs may be discontinued.
- Events and fellowship programs are selected and carried out to meet the needs of the new community and all are welcome.
- Staff resources are commissioned by the new community to meet its new mission and vision and the ministries and programs it has chosen to put in place. Often staff resources do not initially change until informed decisions related to needs have been made.