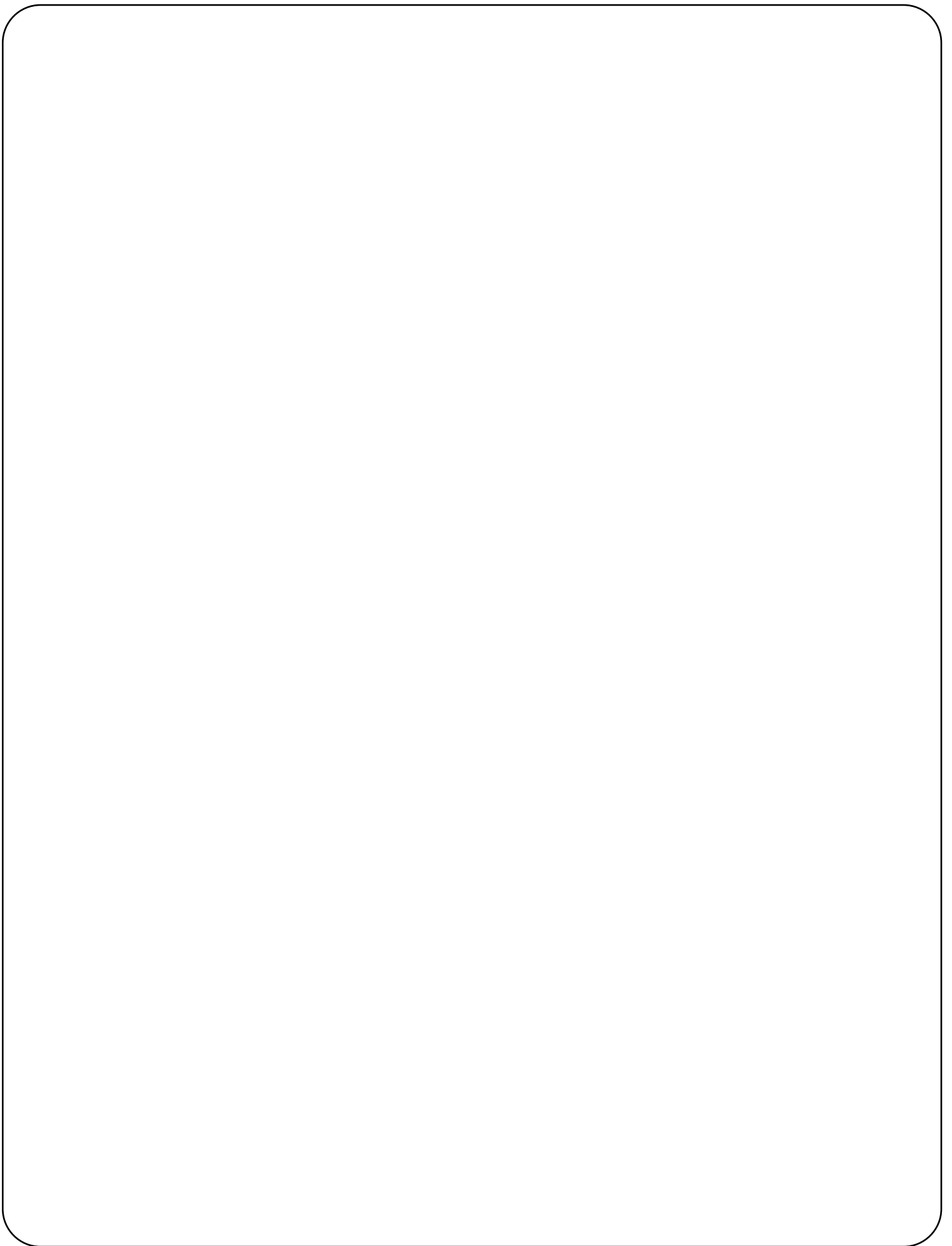




**Amalgamation  
Report –  
Emmanuel  
United Church  
&  
Wesley United  
Church**



**Ottawa Presbytery  
March 2013  
Joint Amalgamation-  
Transition Steering Committee**



# AMALGAMATION NOTES

Each amalgamation process is a unique journey shaped by the partners in the conversation. This particular journey brought together two congregations very different in size, focus of ministry, and energy. In this case, it was the smaller congregation with a ministry focused primarily on Sunday worship and pastoral care to its members and which had decreasing people energy to maintain the life of the congregation that initiated the conversation with a larger congregation with an active program life and outreach to community and global partnerships with a history of strong and active lay leadership.

The conversation between the two congregations grew out of a realization by Wesley that there were looking for a partner who was healthy and could offer a home with opportunities for programming for children and youth; where there was a sense of ministry that was future oriented and not encumbered with questions of survival; where there was visible diversity and consciousness of welcoming people from diverse backgrounds.

**Covenant toward Amalgamation** – the Joint Amalgamation-Transition Committee used the following covenant statement as a reflection of its commitment to the work to which it was called.

*As people of God, called to be the Body of Christ in the world,  
we the congregation of Wesley United Church,  
and we the congregation the Emmanuel United Church,  
and we the Ottawa presbytery*

*Covenant together to be in a relationship of mutual respect,  
faithful mission and ministry,  
as we listen to the call of the Spirit  
to be the Church of Christ in the world  
and walk and talk together about becoming an amalgamated community.*

*We will open our hearts and ears to listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit  
speaking words of encouragement and direction  
as we talk together of ministry and mission in the world.*

*We will share honestly our hopes and dreams for the future  
seeking to grow through our shared stories and questions;  
we will pray fervently that we are making faithful choices in the use of our resources,  
our opportunities for ministry and in caring for all those in our communities.*

*This is our covenant as we explore together the congregations of Emmanuel and Wesley becoming one family of faith.*

The conversation has been filled with moments of deep grief as members of Wesley felt the loss of leaving behind their beloved home; with moments of confusion about how to move forward; with moments of thanksgiving for the welcome given by the Emmanuel congregation; with moments of discernment of God's leading. During the months of conversation both formal and informal it became evident that the conversation was about how Wesley could find a home where it felt that its history and ethos would be respected and honoured.

While many amalgamation processes engage members of both congregations in extensive conversations about a shared mission, this amalgamation conversation did not. The question of visioning was visited on several occasions by the steering committee and after careful consideration it was agreed that the coming together of these two households of faith was not dependent on a clearly articulated statement of shared mission but rather upon the practical matters of creating a shared home.

It is recognized that the vote regarding amalgamation is only a step in the journey to becoming a shared family of faith. Should the vote indicate the decision to continue the journey, there are many implementation steps yet to be taken in order to integrate and honour the presence of the legacy of the Wesley congregation and its people. It is also clear that a number of those left on the roll of Wesley will choose at this time to connect with other communities of faith for reasons of geography or affinity.

# THE JOURNEY



In the spring of 2011, Wesley United Church recognized that the congregation needed to seriously examine its future ministry vision and viability. Ottawa Presbytery named two presbytery



representatives to walk with them through the process of considering the future. The pending retirement of their serving ministry personnel in June 2012 gave both space and urgency to looking at questions of mission, viability, congregational lay leadership and finances.

There were a number of gatherings of the congregation and members of the Unified Board to consider the future. It became clear during this time that having enough lay leadership to accomplish all the tasks of being a congregation was becoming a greater challenge.

It was decided by the Unified Board to explore partnerships and amalgamation as an option. Letters were written to a number of pastoral charges within the presbytery asking if there was interest in a conversation. A number of pastoral charges responded with openness and congregational members were asked to visit their neighbours and share their experience as a part of the discernment.

This led to an exploratory conversation by a group from Wesley with people from Emmanuel United Church to see if there could be any possibility or interest in Wesley amalgamating with Emmanuel. The gathering held in late spring 2012 was a positive experience for the people from Wesley and reflected a welcoming openness from Emmanuel. In the fall of 2012 (September 30, 2012) the Wesley congregation voted as a congregational meeting to formally approach Emmanuel United Church and ask if the congregation would entertain a conversation about amalgamation.

The Council of Emmanuel United Church considered the request and approved a motion endorsing the possibility of an amalgamation. A letter was sent to Wesley conveying interest in the conversation about amalgamation and extending a welcome to the Wesley community. The ministry staff and congregational leaders of Emmanuel have been intentional in working with Wesley in creating a space for its members in the Emmanuel community and worship.

Both congregations then named 5 representatives to a Joint Transition and Amalgamation Working Group to enter into specific conversation about whether and how amalgamation might proceed. Ottawa Presbytery also named Rev. Neil Wallace and Rick Balson as representatives to that process. The Joint Working Group met for the first time on Sunday, November 4, 2012 with the Rev. Robert Lockhart as the facilitator.

# AMALGAMATION CONVERSATION

## Joint Amalgamation – Transition Steering Committee

Each congregation named members to The Joint Amalgamation – Transition Steering Committee.

Wesley: George McLellan – (Chair of the Unified Board)  
George Neville  
Roberts Sims  
Mecelina Guazon  
Alex Guazon  
Monica Cesar  
Wayne Pointen (on Snowbird leave as of mid- Jan 2013)

Emmanuel: Don Francis (Chair of Council 2012)  
Margaret Armstrong (Chair of Council 2013)  
Graham Campbell  
Nellie Givogue  
Ellen Brohman

Emmanuel Ministry Personnel: Peter Lougheed  
Christine Williams

Presbytery Representatives: Neil Wallace (Wesley Supervising Minister)  
Rick Balson  
Lillian Roberts – Presbytery Minister

The Steering Committee met November 4, 2012; December 2, 2012; January 26, 2013; February 24, 2013 and March 5, 2013. Both congregations were kept informed of the outcomes of each meeting through inserts in the Sunday bulletins.

### Mandate of the Joint Amalgamation – Transition Steering Committee

Although there was a formal approved mandate for the committee, the following reflects the agreed upon focus of its work.

1. To explore together the feasibility and advisability to proceeding to amalgamation of the congregations
2. To promote activities and interaction that would foster relationships between the congregations
3. To articulate assumptions about ministry, mission and being a community of faith
4. To communicate with both congregations the work of the joint steering committee and its implications for the amalgamation process.

5. To give direction to the amalgamation process, make recommendations and engage the congregations in decision making at appropriate points.

## Timeline of Conversation

September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Wesley United Church holds a congregational meeting to take a vote to proceed to explore amalgamation with Emmanuel United.
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Presbytery representatives and facilitator Bob Lockhart meet with representatives of Wesley prior to the first meeting of the joint meeting to talk about the possibility of amalgamation.
November 4 <sup>th</sup>	following the joint worship service and lunch at Emmanuel, the Joint Amalgamation -Transition Steering Committee met with facilitator Rev. Robert Lockhart and representatives from the Ottawa presbytery. The purpose of this first meeting was to begin to identify the assumptions, questions, issues and opportunities that would require attention if the congregations decide to move forward in their consideration of amalgamation. Discussions focused on identifying assumptions about things that are non-negotiable for both congregations, and issues and concerns which are matters open for further discussion. During the discussion, it became evident that there was a need to engage in further consultation about the assumptions and expectations that are brought to the conversation.
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee Each congregation shared information about the conversations and decisions that were taking place in their own communities. The Steering Committee put in place communication plans to facilitate planning for joint worship at Emmanuel beginning Sunday, January 6, 2013. There was further consideration of how to incorporate Wesley participation at the 7:30 Christmas Eve service at Emmanuel.

There was extensive conversation regarding the assumed givens that underlie the amalgamation conversation. Those identified were:

1. If the amalgamation proceeds the location of the amalgamated congregation will be at 691 Smyth Road;
2. If the amalgamation proceeds the pastoral relationships with the ministry personnel currently serving Emmanuel United Church will **not** be disrupted.; that is there will be no required pastoral relations to review current calls or appointments;

3. The current conversation at this time is an exploration of amalgamation and does not encompass exploring other options such as a two-point pastoral charge, or an outreach ministry on the Wesley campus;
4. It is accepted that not all members at Wesley may choose to transfer their membership to the amalgamated congregation;
5. The core values of Emmanuel United Church congregation, by which decision making and leadership are shaped will be declared and as far as possible will remain in place as core values of the amalgamated congregation.

As a beginning to talking about a shared vision of ministry and mission, each congregation articulated some of the gifts that they identify with their community.

December	Unified Board Meeting at Wesley with a property committee named to work with the Presbytery Property Committee to explore the sale of 31 Graham Street
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	last regular Sunday worship at Wesley
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Christmas Eve Worship
January 6, 2013	Joint Worship between Emmanuel and Wesley at Emmanuel (with the exception of the Wesley AGM this is the norm)
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee</p> <p>The committee spent considerable time talking about the assumptions around this particular amalgamation and particularly whether there was a need to engage large numbers of people in a visioning process for shared ministry. It was agreed that at this time a shared visioning process would not help to move the process forward. It was also noted that there could be a time when conversation about mission and vision will be important, for instance as decisions are contemplated regarding use of resources for ministry. There was an agreement that the mission statement currently operative in the Emmanuel congregation would be accepted as appropriate for the amalgamated congregation.</p>

The Committee talked about the upcoming Annual meetings in each congregation and whether there were specific decisions that should come before each congregation. A number of joint task groups were established to look at some of the practical considerations of amalgamation.

1. Disposition of proceeds from the sale of the Wesley site
2. Accommodation of memorabilia from the Wesley congregation at the Emmanuel site
3. Further dialogue concerning financial matters



February 7<sup>th</sup> Wesley Property committee met with representatives from the presbytery to review offers for the property at 31 Graham Street and to prepare a recommendation to the Wesley Annual Meeting.

February 10<sup>th</sup> Wesley gathered for worship in its own church building followed by lunch and the annual meeting.

The decisions of the Annual meeting which are important to the conversation regarding amalgamation are the following:

1. The meeting clearly expressed its understanding that the terms of the Merrifield trust fund had not been honoured and that disbursement of assets at the time of amalgamation include the forwarding of the trust, as indicated in the terms of the will of Evelyn Thelma Merrifield, to the Evelyn Thelma Merrifield Memorial Fund of Carleton University. The treasurer estimates this amount to be about \$59,000.
2. The meeting approved a motion indicating the commitment of Wesley United Church to continue to journey with Emmanuel United Church towards amalgamation.
3. The meeting approved a motion to request Ottawa Presbytery to give its consent to the sale of the property.

February 12<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Presbytery granted permission to proceed with the sale of 31 Graham Street with the proceeds to be held by the Trustees until such time as there is a further development of amalgamation and ministry plans for the use of the proceeds

February 19<sup>th</sup> Emmanuel Annual Meeting which included a report on the amalgamation process.

February 24<sup>th</sup> Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee - Decision was taken to adhere to the original timeline of amalgamation by Easter - March 31, 2013. In order for this to happen, both congregations will need to vote on March 17, 2013. There will be joint worship experience with Rev. Kim Vidal preaching and music leadership from Wesley followed by refreshments and then congregational meetings for each congregation where the vote to amalgamate effective March 31, 2013 will be held. The committee agreed to work on the exact wording of the motion and to meet on March 5<sup>th</sup> to review the motion and then make it available on March 10<sup>th</sup> to both congregations.

February 26<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Presbytery Executive is informed of the plan to move towards congregational meetings and voting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The presbytery office sends letters to all those on the mailing list of Wesley United Church.

There are ongoing joint activities which are and will continue to be part of the amalgamation and implementation process. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Kim Vidal, who was a candidate for ordination from Wesley, will conduct a pulpit exchange with the Rev. Peter Lougheed and there will be music leadership from the Wesley congregation. There has been the baptism from the Wesley community held during this time of joint worship with Emmanuel. Pastoral Care to the Wesley congregation is being provided by both Emmanuel ministry personnel and the supervising minister.

- March 1<sup>st</sup> Joint committee looking at memorabilia and furnishings from the Wesley site met to review items to be brought to Emmanuel
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee met to prepare the motions and agenda for the congregational meetings.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Presbytery Pastoral Care & Oversight Committee gathers neighbouring pastoral charges in the required consultation

## AMALGAMATION MOTIONS

### **Motions to Amalgamate the Congregations of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church into a New Pastoral Charge**

#### **For Consideration by the Two Congregations at Congregational Meetings on March 17, 2013**

The amalgamation of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church will be considered by the two congregations on March 17, starting with a joint information session and followed by simultaneous meetings of the two congregations for the purpose of voting on the motions to amalgamate. Further to meetings by members of the two congregations and decisions reached during meetings of the Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee, the following considerations are relevant to the 16 motions listed below.

#### **Considerations:**

1. The two congregations have agreed to continue to journey together by growing in faith through worship, learning, community, mutual care and support. We believe that:
  - Our Church is not a building but a community or body of believers;

- The goals, aspirations and objectives of Emmanuel members and Wesley members will continue through an amalgamated church; and
  - The name Emmanuel (God with us) represents a fundamental belief of members from both churches.
2. The two congregations have agreed that the centre of worship, offices, activities and meetings will be Emmanuel United Church.
  3. The sale of the property and building of Wesley United Church to Domicile Development was approved by the Wesley congregation on February 10 and by the Ottawa Presbytery on February 12.
  4. The disposition of memorabilia and stained-glass windows, equipment, and furnishings will be determined by representatives of the two former congregations.
  5. Recommendations for the allocation of the proceeds from the sale of the Wesley property and building will be developed by a committee made up of representatives of the new pastoral charge, as informed by input from former Wesley members and joint conversations about supporting ministry and mission of the new pastoral charge.

The following motions are recommended by the members of the Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee.<sup>1</sup>

The following motions are put forward for consideration at simultaneous congregational meetings of the two congregations to be held on March 17, 2013.

**It is moved that:**

1. The congregations of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church will amalgamate to continue their faith journey through worship, learning, community, mutual care and support.
2. The congregations of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church will amalgamate within the meaning of Article #334 of the United Church of Canada

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<sup>1</sup> The members of the Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee are: Margaret Armstrong, Ellen Brohman, Graham Campbell, Monica Cesar, Don Francis, Nellie Givogue, Mecelina Guazon, Peter Lougheed, George McLellan, George Neville, Wayne Pointen, Christine Williams, and from Ottawa Presbytery Rick Balson, Lillian Roberts (chair), Neil Wallace (Wesley's Supervising Minister).

Manual to form the new pastoral charge known as Emmanuel United Church, effective 31 March, 2013.

3. The new pastoral charge will be located and will be operated from the United Church of Canada building and sanctuary located at 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa, Ontario.
4. The initial Statement of Mission for the new pastoral charge will be that currently used by Emmanuel United Church (Appendix 1). The Statement of Mission of the new pastoral charge may be reviewed and revised in the future.

## **Governance, Membership**

5. The current governance arrangements of Emmanuel United Church will continue in the new pastoral charge as described in the Emmanuel United Church Constitution.<sup>2</sup>
6. The Council of the new pastoral charge will be constituted as the combination of the Council of Emmanuel United Church and the Unified Board of Wesley United Church, and all Wesley members are invited to participate in the governance and activities of the new pastoral charge.
7. Notwithstanding constitutional limits of Emmanuel United Church regarding the number of Trustees<sup>2</sup> and the following exception, the Trustees of the new pastoral charge will be comprised of the combination of the current Trustees of Wesley United Church and the current Trustees of Emmanuel United Church, effective March 31, 2013 (Appendix 2). The current Trustees of Wesley United Church shall remain the designated Trustees of the real property of Wesley United Church located at 31 Graham Street until the resolution of the sale/disposition of the said property.
8. The membership roll of the new pastoral charge will be the combined membership rolls of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church as of March 31, 2013.

## **Pastoral Relationships**

9. The current pastoral relationships at Emmanuel United Church consisting of the Ordained Minister, the Reverend Peter Lougheed, and the Designated Lay Minister, Christine Williams, will continue in the new pastoral charge.
10. The Pastoral Relations Committee of the Ottawa Presbytery will work with the new pastoral charge to ensure that the appropriate provisions are made according to the United Church policies pertaining to the existing pastoral relationships.

## **Memorabilia, Assets**

11. Recommendations will be made to the Council of the new pastoral charge regarding the use of Wesley United Church's memorabilia and stained glass windows, equipment, and furnishings by representatives of the two congregations.<sup>3</sup>
12. All assets of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church are deemed to be necessary for the furtherance of the ministry and mission of the new pastoral charge, in accordance with the Manual Section 334 (b).<sup>4</sup>
13. The financial accounts, assets and obligations, including the segregated funds, of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church will be integrated at a date to be determined and will be managed thereafter on behalf of the new pastoral charge

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<sup>2</sup> Emmanuel United Church Constitution. March 2009. [http://emmanuelunited.ca/\\_pdf/Emmanuel\\_Constitution.pdf](http://emmanuelunited.ca/_pdf/Emmanuel_Constitution.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Including, but not limited to, a selection of the stained-glass windows and the Wesley cornerstone.

<sup>4</sup> The United Church of Canada Manual 2010. [http://www.united-church.ca/files/manual/2010\\_manual.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/manual/2010_manual.pdf)

under the provisions of the Emmanuel Financial Manual <sup>5</sup> and the CRA number currently ascribed to Emmanuel United Church.

14. An amount (15% of the net proceeds of the sale following deduction of expenses) will be forwarded to the Ottawa Presbytery for the purpose of supporting new ministry. The remaining proceeds from the sale of the building and property of Wesley United Church shall be held in a trust fund, and be allocated and used in accordance with the following terms and conditions:
  - a. The fund shall be known as the Amalgamation Fund;
  - b. The Amalgamation Fund will be established as a Segregated Fund within the financial management arrangements of the new pastoral charge, as described in the Emmanuel Financial Manual;<sup>6</sup>
  - c. Recommendations for policies governing the use of the Joint Amalgamation Fund will be developed by a committee, called the Proceeds Allocation Committee, made up of members of the former congregations of Wesley United Church and Emmanuel United Church, and then recommended to the Council of the new pastoral charge. The recommendations adopted by the Council of the new pastoral charge will then be forwarded for approval to the Ottawa Presbytery;
  - d. Recommendations for allocation of portions of the Amalgamation Fund will include, but not be limited to, amounts for purposes to meet the ministry and mission of the new pastoral charge, as identified and recommended to the Council of the new pastoral charge by the Proceeds Allocation Committee, to include but not be limited to:
    1. amounts to support new and ongoing programs, and outreach ministry;
    2. amounts to equip the building and property of the new pastoral charge in support of ongoing and new programs and activities; and
    3. amounts to contribute to the financial viability of the new pastoral charge;
  - e. The annual investment income generated by the Amalgamation Fund will be allocated to that Fund to support the purposes of that Fund.
15. Any bequest, gift or devise made before or after the amalgamation or intended to be made to Emmanuel United Church (including the amalgamated congregation of Eastbrook United Church) or to Wesley United Church shall be understood to be held by the new pastoral charge, affirming the understanding of the Manual Section 268 c) ii.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Emmanuel United Church Financial Manual. [http://www.emmanuelunited.ca/pdf/Financial\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.emmanuelunited.ca/pdf/Financial_Manual.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Emmanuel United Church Financial Manual. [http://www.emmanuelunited.ca/pdf/Financial\\_Manual.pdf](http://www.emmanuelunited.ca/pdf/Financial_Manual.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The United Church of Canada Manual 2010. [http://www.united-church.ca/files/manual/2010\\_manual.pdf](http://www.united-church.ca/files/manual/2010_manual.pdf)

16. Any plans, decisions and actions for living into the amalgamation will be addressed by the new pastoral charge supported by the Amalgamation Implementation Committee, formerly known as the Joint Amalgamation-Transition Steering Committee, including but not limited to:

- a. Developing the vision and statement of mission of the new pastoral charge;
- b. Naming of any part of the buildings or properties of the new pastoral charge to reflect the presence and history of Wesley United Church;
- c. Identifying people from Wesley United Church to join committees of the new pastoral charge;
- d. Planning of an inaugural service of the new pastoral charge; and,
- e. Recommending any amendments to documents of the new pastoral charge, such as the Emmanuel United Church Constitution and Financial Manual, to properly reflect the amalgamation.

At the congregational meeting of Wesley United Church on March 17, 2013:

**Moved by:** George McLellan, Wesley United Church

**Seconded by:** Robert Sims, Wesley United Church

At the congregational meeting of Emmanuel United Church on March 17, 2013:

**Moved by:** Margaret Armstrong, Emmanuel United Church

**Seconded by:** Graham Campbell, Emmanuel United Church

## Appendix 1

### STATEMENT OF MISSION

#### Emmanuel United Church

##### **We are:**

Emmanuel United Church - God With Us - the body of Christ made visible,  
a welcoming, witnessing, worshiping community, scattered and gathered,  
with a tradition of faithfulness,  
reaping the harvest from seeds of the past, yet evolving.

A member congregation of the United Church of Canada,  
ecumenical and diverse in nature.

##### **It is our mission:**

**\* to worship God as revealed in Jesus the Christ;**

celebrating and witnessing to God's presence and love.

**\* to seek education, growth and spiritual development;**

as individuals and as a community.

**\* to be an instrument of God's grace through God's Holy Spirit;**

ministering to each other and the world around us;

bringing hope and pastoral care;

serving, nurturing and enabling, ourselves and others;

calling for justice in our community and in the world.

**\* to be stewards;**

of God's gifts to us

and of creation.

##### **We are called:**

\* to journey in the loving, inspiring presence of God, in faith that we may grow, may  
change, may reach out, may revitalize and may dream;

\* to dare to see the world as God wants it, and to work for that vision.



## Appendix 2

### Trustees of the New Pastoral Charge

Margaret Armstrong	Trustee, former Emmanuel United Church
Edward Borza	Trustee, former Emmanuel United Church
Carolyn Brown	Trustee, former Emmanuel United Church
Cyril Chapman	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Malcolm Collins	Trustee, former Emmanuel United Church
Carmen Contreras	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Mecelina Guazon	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Richard Johnston	Trustee and Chair, former Emmanuel United Church
Margaret Kneen	Trustee, former Emmanuel United Church
Wes Parker	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Wayne Pointen	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Gary Simser	Trustee, former Wesley United Church
Linda Smith	Trustee, former Wesley United Church

## AGENDA FOR MARCH 17, 2013

- 10 am      Joint Worship for both congregations at 691 Smyth Road, Ottawa  
Rev. Kim Vidal will be the guest preacher. Kim was a candidate for  
ordained ministry out of the Wesley congregation. Rev. Peter Lougheed is  
preaching in the congregations of Osgoode-Kars where Kim is the serving  
minister.
- 11:05      Health Break - time to stretch and pick up a finger food lunch, which you  
are welcome to bring back into the sanctuary with you.
- 11:30      Joint Information Session for both congregations in the Sanctuary. Rev.  
Lillian Roberts, Presbytery Minister, will facilitate. There will be  
opportunity for questions of clarification and/or suggestions to take to both  
congregational meetings.
- 12 Noon    Convene in duly called simultaneous Congregational Meetings. These  
meeting will be chaired by representatives of the Presbytery. The vote will  
be by secret ballot and presbytery appointed scrutineers will conduct the  
count. Only those who are Members of the congregation are eligible to  
vote.
- Emmanuel will meet in the Sanctuary.
- Wesley will meet in the CE Hall.
- 1 pm        Mutual Announcements of the results of the votes.
- Cake & Coffee