



BEST HOPES, IDEAS, CONCERNS FOR THE FUTURE

Conversation after our joint worship service on Sunday, May 6 2018

The Future of Lutheran Ministry in Hamilton

- My hope is that the Lutheran Ministry will continue in Hamilton.
- Hopes: that the Lutheran church (denom) can live on in the teaching of Christ and the vision of Martin Luther.
- Dream: that we find common ground and the inspiration to be the Christians we confess to be.
- Want to continue to be a part of "living" church with youth, Sunday School, choir, good community of believers – not a dying church.
- Amalgamation: new life for the Lutheran churches in Hamilton.
- Spend limited time looking backwards and more time looking forward.
- Build on the future
- "Everyone" who attended service today are looking for change.

Community/Unity

- We all feel like a community and want to keep moving forward as a community and not lose out on the Lutheran experience.
- It is my hope that the amalgamation will strengthen the bonds that could tie all four congregations and the Hamilton community together.
- My greatest hope would be for a community orientated growing church allowing us to grow personally/in our Faith (while) and serving others...becoming a welcoming church.
- I hope that we can keep the really great fellowship that has developed with the new church.
- Create time for one another.
- An inclusive congregation that welcomes everyone! Includes everyone!
- My hope is that we can come together as a community to worship AND serve. We are stronger together.
- A both physical and spiritual union of all four Lutheran congregations
- All four to be One Big One. Lutheran stand proud.
- 1 congregation, 1 church (none of the current), 1 mission.
- Name of amalgamated church suggestion: OICLC, "One in Christ Lutheran Church." (Also use St. John's music).

- Hope – Coming together as one congregation – open to a new location.
- Stay as one in Christ Jesus Church Family. Very important.
- Hope for the future: share resources i) Human, lay leaders, youth leaders, outreach, mission to the elderly AND ii) physical (bricks and mortar), financial – seed money for programming.
- Focus on the core. Changes will need to be made, but without the strong base and core, a combined ministry will be fragmented and cannot be sustained. If the core and base do not grow faster than the elderly we lose, then we have accomplished nothing.

Staying with God

- Stay true to the word of God!
- I think that our Lord is going to give us all the answer of this amalgamation work.
- Amalgamation hopes and dreams: for a believer to belong to the body of Christ, he/she must want to belong to worship and serve a God out of Thankfulness for going to and enduring the cross for love of us. (It is our payback of thanksgiving).
- I am full of hope and expect a great future for all of us serving the Lord. He will show us the way, we just have to be open to his call.

2 vs. 4

- Instead of 4 Lutheran churches in Hamilton, have 2; one on the mountain and one below.
- Possibility of two churches instead of four
- As I sat her before the conversation, I was sure we would need two churches. We come from East and West communities so I thought we would need one at each end of the city. I was enlightened with the idea of transportation and community to see that one would be enough. Our central strength of all four churches is community.
- Need for two places of worship or meeting. But one ??? is also important.
- Hope all 4 decide to amalgamate.

Compromise/Openness

- Learn to compromise and maintain your faith (believe).
- United we stand, divided we fall! So let's compromise – more, not just a little bit.
- People have to learn that times change – so have we. We have to learn to be more open minded and accept new ideas.
- People need to get comfortable in being a little uncomfortable.

Building/Location

- A new location – neutral with no history.
- No one wants to give up their church.

- Multi-faceted building with an income stream (church-affordable housing, outreach programs) as well as support for members.
- It's not the building that makes the church, it's the people.
- Much as it grieves me, I think we must leave our present buildings, possessions, and customs BEHIND.
- Close all 4 churches and take the proceeds to build a new church with a rec centre etc.
- Amalgamate all four churches and build a new church perhaps with a seniors' centre/facilities for youth/lots of parking.
- My hope is that we can agree on one new building which would be a new beginning for all the congregations. Also try to get more young people into the church.
- Clean break required from existing church buildings.
- I think if we don't agree about one of the churches, build a new one on the mountain,
- We need to be central, possibly mountain. Parking.
- A new site for a new church.
- Where should we be?
- We need a NEW HOME for all!

Younger generation

- We want to see a future for the church, attract more youth and children so they can be our future.
- My hope is a true "One in Christ" Lutheran Church of Hamilton. One that focuses on the youth – our future congregational members. Although we 50 and over members are all used to what we like and want, we need to include our youth in the decision making going forward. After all, we don't just want to amalgamate, we want to grow in Christ, so generations after us can do this work!
- We need to make it "young family" friendly!!
- Young families – maybe offer daycare.
- Interesting programs for youth.
- To be able to get our young people back into the church.
- I hope to have greater youth involvement. More opportunities to participate in social activities for a variety of age groups.
- How to make "church" relevant for the younger generation to come back to church.
- It is important to attract youth in to the church at the same time keep the older people in the church.
- Suggestion for further attempts to keep youth groups together.
- Need for the youth of the church to continue as most congregations are aging.
- Dreams – To attract young people, to have everyone open to change to embrace the goals of youth.

- My dream is that the millenials will be moved by the holy spirit to realize the importance of our church family and continue our tradition of worship and praise to God.
- Ways of having the younger generation to take more interest in their home church not just the outlying ones ex. Peoples' Church
- Youth sport facilities. Attract youth to 50 yrs.
- More young people who have been confirmed provided with interesting program – a reason to get together and keep meeting regularly.
- Hope for the future: youth ministry.
- My concern is the lack of children who are the future. We need to create something new that is community based and draws people of all ages.
- Find a way to bring young people back to the church.
- To see the congregation grow and hope to attract younger families.
- My thoughts on our future amalgamation involves bringing back the youth and children and families as this is our future. Together discussing and bringing our ideas that would touch families to bring return to church as their foundation.
- Do things differently in order to engage youth. Go out and look for them other than expecting them to come to us.
- In order to draw more young people into the church have more activities for them at church.
- To make this work, more young people!

Attracting others/Community Outreach

- Hopefully we can find a way to appeal to the youth (our future) and perhaps work more visibly with the many newcomers in the area. Our numbers grew in the 50s due to the influx of Europeans. Now there are immigrants from other areas who need to be helped and welcomed.
- Every church has to be open! New people!
- Be visible in the communities through works.
- Greater community outreach
- I wonder if our ministry in the future is really a ministry to seniors, both those in the congregations and those in our community.

Transportation

- Offer transportation to needy
- Maybe with bus service for young and old
- Bus services for elderly people
- New church parking.
- If elderly members who don't drive be provided with a driver or perhaps a bus if there are many in need of a ride.

Strengths

- Choir is strength
- Parish nurse/lunch and learns
- Community gardens
- Coffee hours
- My hope is to have church services the way we did this morning – the music, message, togetherness in Christ was truly memorable. Every Sunday like today – that’s my prayer.

Process

- Speedily communicate findings (and trends) you find in the different opinions of the stakeholders as the process unfolds.
- Ensure that transparency and independence (objectivity?) is clearly shown to the stakeholders as process unfolds.
- Proper process and adequate accounting for assets of the separate churches.
- What is the time line?
- The biggest decision to make is how and where we will amalgamate.

Other

- Bible studies
- Music program
- Our hope is to be one step at a time by this time next year. Our hope this will be done. Let’s get together here to find out.
- Promote environmental initiatives