

# To the Congregants of St Paul's United Church & Wilmot United Church

RE: DOWNTOWN UNITED DISCERNMENT PROCESS REPORT

Nov 19, 2023

Grace and peace to you! We are so glad to share with you the **Final Recommendations Report** of our congregations' joint Downtown United Discernment Process. (Attached to this note.)

In the report you will find a history of the Discernment Process along with eight recommendations. You will also find an explanation of how these recommendations rose out of the congregational discernment process, a big picture of how everything fits together, and detailed descriptions for each idea along with why we think they will fit our congregations' needs and vision for the future.

In response to this report, **we would like to invite you to attend a Collaborative Worship Service and Recommendations Report Discussion Event on November 26, at St Paul's United.** The gathering will begin at **10:30 a.m.** with worship, followed by a celebratory luncheon, and then the discussion event in which we will talk about the report, receive feedback and make decisions for the future. During this event, the first two recommendations will receive a vote, while the other recommendations will be taken after the event (with participants' feedback) back to the congregations' leadership teams for consideration. This will be followed by a congregational meeting in each church, and finally a joint meeting between the churches to make final decisions.

**As you read through the report, we ask that you consider these points for discussion which we will use in the small group conversation time during the November 26 gathering:**

- **What energizes you or interests you and/or makes you curious?**
- **What concerns you?**
- **What questions do you have?**

We also want ask for ***your prayer leading up to and during the event.*** We understand that our two congregations have gone through much in recent years and are now in the midst of a change process that is bound to create excitement but also generate questions and perhaps even a little anxiety.

As a team we have done our best to listen to your heart as we listened together to the Spirit, and to propose a plan that both meets our current needs *and* leads us forward into a future with hope, trusting in the Spirit to guide us. We pray that November 26 will be positive and create forward movement, and we ask that you join us in that prayer.

With gratitude to God and anticipation of a good future,

**The Downtown United Project Committee:**

Craig Frame, Ralph Simpson, Hilary Drain, Mel McGuigan,  
Derrick Grant, Dana Hanson, Mary Tingley, Michelle Armstrong

With consultant support from Cathy Stewart, Marijke Strong

