

December 4, 2020

Dear Living Spirit Centre Friends,

As many of you will be aware, over the past year St. Philip Anglican Church members have been actively involved in conversations with four other Regina Anglican churches.

The purpose of the conversations have been to follow through on a recommendation that was approved by their Bishop in February 2020. That recommendation would see the five Anglican parishes “merge into one parish with a new name and common vision, with a targeted implementation date of January 2021, whereby parishioners of all five parishes would worship together at one main location, with the possibility of satellite venues”. The process became known as the “521” – five congregations coming together as one.

The outcome of this process will mean a change for St. Philip and the Living Spirit Centre (LSC), and more specifically, the decision on the location for the new parish, which now has a name – Immanuel Anglican Church.

Over the past year, St. Philip leadership has been updating LSC Council as the conversations have been proceeding.

In August 2020, Bread of Life Lutheran and Eastside United were asked to be part of a subgroup with 521 Anglican representatives on a Living Spirit Centre-521 Renewal Team Subgroup.

The purpose of the subgroup was to continue dialogue and determine what the LSC partners consider as a preferred option for the LSC and the five Anglican congregations, including the goals and direction for the five congregations.

The subgroup had four meetings and then submitted their October 14, 2020 “Living Spirit Centre Preferred Option Proposal” to the Renewal Team (a new Immanuel Parish Council has since replaced the Renewal Team).

The proposal states that the “LSC partners preferred option is that the 521 Anglicans enter into a re-negotiated covenantal ecumenical relationship with the current LSC partners, Eastside United and ELCIC Bread of Life churches. However, if this preferred option is not accepted by the 521 Anglicans, then the LSC partners would like to see LSC be a satellite location.”

On November 27, 2020, the LSC-521 Renewal Team Subgroup received a response from the Immanuel Parish Council co-chairs. The time and effort of the subgroup’s work in developing the preferred options for continuing the LSC partnership were acknowledged.

The response said that “the Council indicates it was prepared to explore an ongoing arrangement under which the Immanuel Anglican Church would continue the use of the Living Spirit Centre as a satellite location – to serve as a secondary worship site for the parish and as an ongoing centre for mission, outreach and growth.”

We have communicated with our respective leadership teams in making them aware of this response. It is important that LSC congregational members also be aware of this new development.

At this point we don't know what this new ecumenical relationship with Immanuel Anglican Church will mean. Eastside, Bread of Life and Immanuel will need to work together to refresh the current LSC contractual relationship. Immanuel has proposed that we form a team to develop and renew the terms of the new agreement for joint use of the LSC with the Immanuel Anglican Church as a full partner.

Bread of Life, Eastside and Immanuel look forward to confirming the next steps over the next few weeks that will provide more clarity, including formation of a team to start the conversation.

While we know there will be many changes for St. Philip as we move closer to formally becoming part of the Immanuel Anglican Church, we look forward to the possibility of a continued ecumenical relationship with our Bread of Life and Eastside long-time friends and partners.

We look forward to reporting to you as the dialogue continues.