

Proposed Agreement of Amalgamation

between

Kerwood-Bethesda United Church [KBUC] and Strathroy United Church [SUC]

Background: The current minister for KBUC has indicated his desire to retire. The congregation of KBUC, after much discussion and consideration, believes that the best decision at this stage in the life of the church is to amalgamate with Strathroy United Church. By amalgamating with another congregation, there will be on-going support for members of the KBUC congregation.

Effective date of amalgamation: January 1st, 2024

Name of newly amalgamated church: Strathroy United Church [unchanged]

Mission Statement:

As disciples of Jesus,
we live out our love of God
within a welcoming community of faith,
strengthening one another
and our world through worship,
education, service and proclaiming the Good News.

Place of worship: The current location of Strathroy United Church in Strathroy, Ontario.

Note: The KBUC building located in Kerwood, Ontario is being sold.

Minister: Rev. Brad Morrison will be the minister of the newly amalgamated church.

Note that Rev. George Rowaan, minister of Kerwood-Bethesda United Church, has submitted his retirement notice indicating an end date for his current call as December 31, 2023.

There is a congregational meeting scheduled at Kerwood-Bethesda United Church for Thursday, September 21st, 2023 to accept this retirement notice and end date for Rev. George's call.

Governance: The existing governance structure for the Strathroy United Church shall continue, with one exception:

That one [1] member of KBUC would be added to the current Trustee team at SUC. Ideally, this person would be a current trustee with KBUC. This person would be involved with the Investment team of SUC and would additionally be welcome as a member of the Finance team.

It is noted that KBUC members are welcome to informally join church council and/or any team of SUC. Members of KBUC are also welcome and encouraged to seek nomination or appointment to Council and/or teams via the annual meetings of SUC, the 2024 Annual Meeting being held in March 2024.

Transfer of Financial Assets from KBUC: The financial assets of KBUC will be transferred to SUC effective the date of the amalgamation.

Any restrictions currently in place on these assets will continue under SUC.

Investment income generated by these financial assets may be used to support ministry in the local community. Each year, if required, a maximum of \$30,000 of the principle of the unrestricted assets may be directed towards ministry, pastoral care, and outreach in the Strathroy / Kerwood area. Also, the congregation of KBUC would appreciate on-going support to the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and Camp Kee-Mo-Kee. These policies will be reviewed annually by the Investment team.

Modification will be required to the Investment policy currently in place at SUC to allow for the transfer and management of these financial assets. Changes to the Investment policy will be made by the SUC Investment Team and trustee assigned from KBUC, to then be approved by SUC Council and Congregation.

Transfer of Real Property from KBUC: The building for KBUC is being sold. Consent for the sale of the KBUC building has been requested from Antler River Watershed Regional Council.

If this building is sold prior to the date of the amalgamation, the net financial proceeds will be transferred to SUC effective the date of amalgamation, as stated above for 'Transfer of Financial Assets from KBUC'.

Note that the net proceeds from the sale of the Kerwood building will be restricted funds as per the guidelines of Regional Council. The interest from this restricted fund will be used for operating expenses. This policy will be reviewed annually.

If the building has not been sold prior to the date of the amalgamation, then legal title to this building will be transferred to SUC effective the date of the amalgamation. The building will then be sold under the newly amalgamated SUC. Consideration would be given to establishing a building committee for the sole purpose of completing the sale of the KBUC building.

Transfer of Other Assets from KBUC: There will be space made available at SUC to display certain physical assets from KBUC that hold special meaning, including but not limited to the Communion table, baptismal font and Advent wreath stand.

Proposed Amalgamation Schedule:

- September 10th, 2023 – proposed agreement of amalgamation presented to congregations
- September 21st or 24th, 2023 – KBUC & SUC congregations vote on proposal
- October 2023 – amalgamation agreement submitted to Regional Council for approval
- October 15th, 2023 11:00 a.m. – Anniversary Sunday for KBUC celebrating 150 years
- December 31st, 2023 11:00 a.m. – final service at KBUC
- December 31st, 2023 10:00 a.m. – final service at SUC
- January 7th, 2024 10:00 a.m. – first service of the newly amalgamated SUC