



## Immanuel Anglican Church

Primary Worship Site: 142 Massey Road, Regina, S4S 4M9

Phone: 306-586-4420

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### **Notice of Immanuel Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 29, 2023 following the 10:00 am. Worship In-person at Immanuel Anglican Church (a light lunch will be provided)**

January 18, 2023

Greetings Immanuel Parishioners

In accordance with the 10-30 day notice requirement of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle Canons, the wardens are hereby giving notice of an *in-person special congregational meeting* of the Parish of Immanuel. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 29, 2023** at 142 Massey Road following the 10:00 a.m. worship service. A light lunch will be provided.

The purposes of the meeting are to:

1. Vote for the permanent worship site for the Parish of Immanuel: **Motion:** That the members of Immanuel Anglican Church designate the Immanuel church property at 142 Massey Road, Regina as the permanent worship site effective immediately. (See attachment)
2. The following "Yes" or "No" question will be asked: "Would you feel comfortable having a same sex marriage ceremony held in this church building?" (see over for information from Bishop Helen Kennedy)
3. Transition Team Report: Prioritize Outreach, Mission and Ministries (Attachment to follow).

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@immanuelanglicanregina.ca](mailto:info@immanuelanglicanregina.ca) or call the office at 306-586-4420 and your call will be re-directed.

God's Blessing,

Rod Ashley and Diane Gingras  
Wardens

Richard Simpson,  
Deputy Warden

**Same Sex Marriage: Notes to Congregations from Bishop Helen Kennedy  
January 17, 2023**

As you enter into your AGM there is a piece of work that has been required of you. At the synod that was held last October, clarification was asked for regarding this Diocese's stance on same sex marriage. I gave a brief explanation about General Synod in 2016 where a motion was put forward to amend the marriage canon to specifically include same sex marriages.

It passed, but needed a second reading of synod. The second reading at general synod of 2019 failed, causing the whole motion to fail. So there is no change in the marriage canon within the Anglican Church of Canada.

Yet, a legal provision was agreed upon for what has become known as "The Local Option" which means each Diocesan Bishop can authorize liturgies for its clergy to use when presiding at a same sex marriage ceremony in their Diocese, without breaking canonical law.

This Diocesan Bishop is choosing to take that local option, but is committed to respect the wishes of individual parishes.

I would like to know which congregations would be comfortable in having a same sex marriage ceremony held in their church building, and those who are not comfortable.

This collection of information is for my benefit only. Nothing will be shared publicly about the results of the congregational polls. They are simply a way for me to know our Diocese better. There is no judgement based on these results

# **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**DATE: JANUARY 29, 2023**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Permanent Worship Site**

**Option A - No decision, which would mean the mandated review** with the October 2023 date and the Massey Road designation as the primary worship site remains in place.

**Option B - Defer the decision** on designating the permanent worship site, proceed with the mandated review and await its results.

**Option C - Recommend to the membership of Immanuel** that the Church designate the 142 Massey Road property as the permanent worship site effective immediately

### **1. BACKGROUND**

In October 2021 Vestry approved, and communicated to the Immanuel members, the recommendation from the Facilities Working Group (FWG) to accept the Massey Road location as the primary worship site; and directed that a review take place in October 2023 with respect to ministry, missional growth, and financial sustainability, leading to a recommendation and ultimately a decision by the congregation on a permanent worship site for Immanuel.

Since the October 2021 decision designating Massey Road as the primary worship site our environment has changed

- two of the five churches have been sold (St. James the Apostle and St. Luke's)
- one has come off the market (St. Matthew) with the Diocese assuming responsibility for both the church and rectory
- leaving the former All Saints and Living Spirit Centre (LSC) locations as possible options for the permanent home for Immanuel among the five former legacy properties

Between September 2020 and 2022, the FWG has worked with the real estate agent, Avison Young, to assess the purchase or acquisition of a replacement church property that would be satisfactory as Immanuel's permanent worship site. Throughout this time period, at regular intervals, it has been reported that no church or other property had become available that would meet Immanuel's needs, and/or exceed the attributes of the Massey Road location with 1.74 acres and 14,610 sq feet of space.

On our behalf the FWG also considered purchasing land, and building anew. After reviewing the details of a report from J.C. Kenyon Engineering, it was determined that the total estimated cost for land and buildings (as at September 2021) would be \$9.59 million. At that time, the estimated net funds available, from sale of St James and St Luke's including a guestimate for the sale of the Winnipeg Street property, would be in the range of +/- \$2.4M.

## 2. SUMMARY ANALYSIS FOR MOVING FORWARD

The FWG developed 18 criteria that were used to rank and assign points to the various Immanuel properties. Out of the 220 potential points available, the property at Massey Road rated the highest as being closest to meeting the criteria for the permanent worship site.

### Analysis Summary of Points and Percentage of Meeting Main Worship Site Needs

	Massey Road	Living Spirit Centre
Total Points	<b>187</b>	<b>156</b>
Meets %age of Needs	<b>85%</b>	<b>71% note 1</b>

**note 1** Assessment was based on worship seating of 150 allocated to former St Philip. Criteria of 300 seating currently is available but allocated to the Lutheran partner at the LSC for our same worship times. Negotiation would be required on use of the larger sanctuary by Immanuel.

## 3. CONTEXT FOR MOVING FORWARD

The transition process being conducted by the Intentional Interim has resulted in new timing for the appointment of a permanent Incumbent which has impacted the October 2023 facility review. The work of the 2022 Search Committee, which has just been re-activated, is now likely to occur over in the first few months of 2023, resulting in a call for candidates in the Spring.

- it would not be prudent to be searching for and/or making an Incumbent appointment at the same time as the parish would be going through a process to select a permanent location for the Immanuel parish
- delaying a decision on a permanent worship site to October 2023 may impact a potential priest's decision on whether or not to apply for the Incumbent position
- similarly, as a new Incumbent starting, it would be difficult to deal with a locational decision, and could detract from the new Incumbent's focus on other priorities
- Bishop Helen Kennedy and Dean Mike Sinclair are supportive of moving up the date for presentation of a recommendation/motion to the congregation

Accordingly, Vestry has agreed that the appropriate time to take a recommendation/motion to members for a vote on the Immanuel permanent worship site is the Special Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023.

## 4. OPTIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD

**OPTION A: Status quo: No decision, which would mean the mandated review** would move ahead as per the recommendation accepted in October 2021

Pros and Cons:

- This would honour the commitment made in October 2021 to make the decision on the permanent site in 2023.

- In a perfect environment, the timeline would be realistic, however, leaving the issue of a permanent location undecided will run the risk of not being able to recruit a qualified Incumbent.
- A perspective Incumbent may not be interested in applying for, or coming into, a position where the permanent site has not been determined; it could detract from the priorities of the parish in moving forward.

**OPTION B: Defer the decision** on designating the permanent worship site, proceed with the mandated review and await its results.

Under this option, we would continue moving forward with the revised deadline recently approved by Vestry, and during the Special Congregational Meeting on January 29, 2023 a status report on the review would be presented to members.

Pros and Cons:

- It has become very difficult to go through all the pieces of work that need to be done by January 29, 2023. It would likely only be additional project reporting in January 2023.
- We would be in a position whereby a perspective candidate may not wish to apply or accept a position, given that the parish would be in the middle of a search for a new permanent home.

**OPTION C: Recommend to the membership of Immanuel** that the Church designate the 142 Massey Road property the permanent worship site effective immediately

Accordingly, Vestry would approve a Motion to present to the Special Congregational meeting on January 29 to designate 142 Massey Road as the permanent worship site, effective immediately.

Pros and Cons:

- There may be those who say sufficient time was not allowed to do a follow-up analysis of the real estate situation either for an existing or new build facility for Immanuel as its new home.
- There has been an extensive search of both existing buildings and properties for a retrofit or new build for Immanuel.
- This option would be based on the fact that there are only two parishes to consider for the permanent worship site.
- Avison Young remains aware of our needs and if something comes on the market of interest we would be contacted.
- A new build of \$9.59M (estimate) is not in the range of affordability for Immanuel.
- This could provide opportunity for the Diocese and Immanuel to work together on other opportunities with the Living Spirit Centre.
- Immanuel leadership will continue to work towards mission growth, financial sustainability and access to the Immanuel Trust Fund from sale of properties.
- A new Incumbent would come into a newly formed parish that is officially settled into a permanent home.

## **RECOMMENDATION: OPTION C**

### **Rationale:**

- This option best fits with the work of the Intentional Intern and the Transition Team, the Search Committee and recruitment of Immanuel's new Incumbent.
- Some congregational members are asking why it is taking so long to decide on a permanent location? We are hearing let us get on with it.
- Neither MacPherson Engineering nor J.C. Kenyon Engineering identified any major structural or mechanical concerns at Massey Road.
- The Capital Plan includes the three-to five-year work plan as recommended by the above engineering firms.
- The new Incumbent would be able to focus on the priorities identified for Immanuel in moving forward.
- 142 Massey Road is on an active bus route serving our neighbouring Campbell Collegiate.
- We have a long-standing relationship with Campbell Collegiate through our rental arrangement on our parking lot and we are exploring other ways to work together. We are across the Road from Massey Elementary School as one of our community partners and have been successful in working with other faith and non-faith organizations in the neighbourhood.
- The Diocese now has the responsibility for the relationship with the Living Spirit Centre.
- Immanuel leadership will continue to work towards mission growth, financial sustainability and access to the Immanuel Trust Fund from sale of properties.
- A new Incumbent would come into a newly formed parish that is officially settled into a new home.
- If, after the permanent Incumbent has been here for a period of time, we feel we are outgrowing the space at Massey Road, there is nothing to prevent us from revisiting the decision based on the existing real estate market.

**MOTION: That the members of Immanuel Anglican Church designate the Immanuel church property at 142 Massey Road, Regina as the permanent worship site effective immediately**

Recommended and presented on behalf of the Immanuel Vestry