

# Notice to the congregation of Highland Hills United Church

## Readiness Vote and Building Selection Vote.

### Event Schedule

Highland Hills United Church - May 2018

It has been suggested that Highland Hills United Church have a congregational vote to determine if our church members are ready to decide which of its two buildings should become the home of the congregation. Following is a schedule for the events surrounding the **readiness vote**, and the **building selection vote**, should the congregation decide to move ahead with plans to consolidate activities into one church building.

The Integration Committee met on May 14, 2018 and discussed the timing of the congregational vote to select which of the two church buildings (the Minden UC building in Minden and the Zion UC building in Carnarvon) should become the permanent home of Highland Hills United Church. Some members of the congregation are expressing a wish to move ahead with the vote. Other members indicate they are not ready to decide. The **readiness vote** was suggested as a way to gauge the feelings of the members and prepare them for a future **building selection vote**. The committee felt there was merit in this approach and mapped out a proposed schedule of events which was presented to the Unified Board.

A special meeting of the Unified Board was held on Wednesday May 30, 2018. This meeting was called to discuss the **readiness vote** and seek the approval of the Unified Board to proceed with the proposed event schedule. Lois Deacon made the presentation for the Integration Committee. Discussion and thoughtful consideration ensued, and then the Unified Board members unanimously decided, by secret ballot, that a **congregational readiness vote** will occur on **Sunday, June 24, 2018**, after the Minden worship and **approved the schedule of next steps** laid out below depending on the outcome of each vote.

According to the Manual of the United Church of Canada, members only are eligible to vote. Voting will take place by secret ballot. Anyone may attend the meeting. Proxy votes and advance poll votes are not permitted; however, an opportunity exists to participate in the **readiness vote** by conference call. Please see **Details About Voting** at the end of this notice for further details on participating by conference call if you cannot attend in person on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**A New Member's service will be held during the worship service on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please speak with Rev. Max Ward if you wish to join, or transfer your membership.**

The question to be put to the congregation for the **readiness vote** is: *"Is the congregation of Highland Hills United Church ready to decide which of its two church buildings shall become its permanent home?"* Members will be able to vote yes or no, and a simple majority will decide the result.

If the outcome of the **June 24<sup>th</sup> readiness vote** is that the congregation is **not ready to proceed with a building selection vote**, plans will be made to address concerns and we will work together to prepare for the **building selection vote** at a future date. The month-about service locations will continue until a permanent building location is selected.

If the outcome of the **June 24<sup>th</sup> readiness vote** is that the congregation is **ready to proceed with a building selection vote**, a **building selection vote** will be held on **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. The Integration Committee will interact with the Congregation to inform and seek input over the following months leading up to the **building selection vote** on **Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018** at Zion United Church. The late Summer/Autumn date was selected to accommodate our snowbirds, prior to their departure. The Integration Committee has yet to craft the ballot question, but the same voting procedures will apply. A Presbytery representative will preside over the **building selection vote**. A minimum of **two thirds of the votes cast** will be required to decide which building is selected. If the **building selection vote** fails to achieve the two thirds of the votes cast, plans will be made to address concerns and we will work together to prepare for the **building selection vote** at a future date. The month-about service locations will continue until a permanent building location is selected.

Presbytery will be informed of the results of the **building selection vote** at the Presbytery meeting on Wednesday September 19, 2018.

After the **building selection vote**, the Unified Board will meet to discuss the results of the **building selection vote** and determine an action plan and schedule for moving forward. Depending upon the outcome of the vote, discussions will take place with respect to furniture, memorial items, windows and other features, and possible modifications to the selected building. A special closing service will be arranged at a suitable time for the building which is designated as surplus. Permission will be requested from Presbytery to put the surplus building up for sale, and the sale of the surplus building will be arranged according to the Unified Board's schedule.

#### **Details About Voting:**

If you are not able to attend the **June 24<sup>th</sup> readiness vote at Minden UC** in person but would still like to participate in the **June 24<sup>th</sup> readiness vote**, you may join the meeting by conference call. When it is time to vote, you will be asked to say your vote on the conference call, so it will not be secret. Your vote will be recorded on a ballot and included with everyone else's votes. Participation by conference call will be an experiment for us all and we expect it to work properly. Yet, please note that if there are technical difficulties it may become evident that your vote may not be able to be counted if participating by conference call. This will be a test to see if we can reliably use conference call technology for any future voting processes.

The conference calling process is...

Dial the toll-free telephone number **1-888-224-1908**, and you'll be prompted to give the conference/participant code which is **88285822#**

Please don't hesitate to share your ideas or concerns with any member of the Integration Committee: Lois Deacon, Andy Cooper, Erskine Flook, Janet Heffer, Ross McMullen, Debbie Sherwin, Rev. Max Ward.