

## **Council Update/Annual Meeting Date Set**

Greetings Garneau faithful.

The Coordinating Council wishes to make a couple of announcements and update you with regard to the current situation and undertakings of Garneau United Church and the Ashbourne facility.

We start with a thank you for everyone for your ongoing support. We couldn't do any of this without you all.

As you know, the Ashbourne is being renovated and it appears now that it will likely become student focused apartments. The activity was slowed considerably by the flooding that resulted from a break in the sprinkler system in early January. Fortunately nothing was seriously damaged in terms of our contents. However, it will be many months before that area of the building is able to be occupied again. After much conversation with the new owner and among Council, we decided that it was in everyone's best interests to permanently vacate the facility in the next few weeks. The congregation would be required to be elsewhere until at least October and it is clear that there is no long-term opportunity for relationship with Alliance MJ who currently own the building. We would need to move out permanently by October 2025.

The decision was difficult to make but we realized that our future is not there and decided we might as well move forward and use the next several months to seek other opportunities. The current owner has agreed to move our contents to a location where they can be sorted and considered, dispersed or stored as is deemed appropriate.

Sometime in the early spring when the weather permits, we will have a decommissioning service that will allow us to lament together as a family of faith and engage ritual to support our letting go of this land and our history on it that we have shared with so many others.

But we also continue to worship each week! We are currently meeting at St Stephen's College on Sundays at 10:30 am, likely at least through Easter. Parking behind St Stephen's is free for us on Sunday, (except for the staff parking area.) We would love to have you join us there.

The annual congregational meeting date has been set for March 17th at 1pm, preceded by a light lunch following the service.

We want you to know how much we appreciate your ongoing support for the life and work of Garneau United Church and all the gifts, prayers and hope you are offering that continue to lift up our family of faith.

Please be assured that we will continue to update you as we navigate all of these changes.

Blessings,

The Coordinating Council of Garneau United Church