



Town Hall Information Meeting:

**Proposed Amalgamation Between  
Runnymede United & Windermere United**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

# 1. Opening

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## Opening Prayer

Rev. Ted Grady

## Holy Manners

Laura Gallagher-Doucette

## Opening Remarks

Robin Pilkey, Board Chair

# Town Hall Outline

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1. Opening
2. Merger Working Group
3. Vision for a Merged Church
4. Amalgamation Agreement
5. Staffing
6. Windermere Church Building
7. Community Outreach Ministry
8. Financials
9. Timeline Moving Forward
10. Summary
11. Q&A Discussion
12. Closing

## 2. Merger Working Group

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The Merger Working Group has been engaged with Windermere to investigate a merger, create an agreed proposal, get answers to questions and share all this information so we can make a decision as a congregation.

- **Board Members:**

- Alex Cruickshank
- Brenda Lien
- Brian Traquair
- Debra Horsfield
- Robin Pilkey (Chair)

- **Staff:**

- Laura Gallagher-Doucette
- Rev. Ted Grady

### 3. a) Vision for a Merged Church

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- **Merger Vision:** Creation of a two campus Runnymede United Church embracing worship, Christian education, social justice and outreach with an Affirming and inclusive approach.
- Building on the existing Runnymede leadership, staff, volunteers and initiatives, with new members from Windermere, extended to embrace their legacy in Swansea and in local community outreach.
- Create a stronger and more sustainable Runnymede United Church combining stable financial giving and reserves with an ongoing building rental surplus and a commitment to community outreach ministry and engagement in a larger neighbourhood.

## 3. b) Mission Alignment

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- **Our Mission:** “So that Christ's healing grace may reach a hurting world, we are committed to seeing that all who seek are: welcomed into community, equipped with faith and supported in finding and following God's call on their lives.”
- We will be able to sustainably grow our church community, help more people, be more visible and do more in the pursuit of our mission.
- We can expand our social justice vision in west Toronto.
- Our mission calls on us to support Windermere members to continue following God's call, and us with them.

## 4. Amalgamation Agreement Parameters (1 of 3)

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- The word that the United Church of Canada uses for any combining of churches is amalgamation. It includes all possible types of joining together of churches, including a merger.
- Amalgamation is the only term that exists in United Church of Canada policy, and we need to use this term in the Amalgamation Agreement.
- The practical reality, understood by us, Windermere, Shining Waters and described in detail in the agreement, is a merger.
- We can continue to use the term merger informally, but you will see the term amalgamation in the agreement and formal announcements.

## 4. Amalgamation Agreement Parameters (2 of 3)

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|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>(a) Church Name</b>       | Runnymede United Church   |
| <b>(b) Church Board</b>      | Runnymede's existing Board and Officers + two Members-at-Large positions that are vacant are invited to be filled from Windermere.  |
| <b>(c) Board of Trustees</b> | Runnymede Trustees and Windermere Trustees combine to form a new Runnymede Board of Trustees, with the existing Runnymede officers and governance.  |
| <b>(d) Committees</b>        | Runnymede's existing Committee Chairs and members, with invitations to Windermere members to join us in our committees.   |
| <b>(e) Pastoral Care</b>     | The responsibility for pastoral care for Windermere members and the community will rest with Runnymede. The ministers and Pastoral Care group at Runnymede will do their best to assist all those in need. If more resources are needed, we will have the funds to do so. |



## 4. Amalgamation Agreement Parameters (3 of 3)

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|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <p><b>(f) Worship</b></p> | <p>Worship is at the heart of congregational life, and the ministers and leaders of Runnymede invite and welcome members, adherents and friends of Windermere into all aspects of worship, whether enjoying Sunday morning, or participating through reading or choir, all the way to engagement in different models of worship.</p> <p>Runnymede has a history of holding alternative services beyond Sunday morning and is open to changes, new perspectives and even new kinds of services as we all seek to grow, stretch and risk new ways of being church.</p> |
|---------------------------|--|

## 5. Staffing

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- **Clergy:** Two full-time clergy positions in our plan going forward, up from one and a half.
- **Runnymede staff:** Our staff team will remain in their existing roles.
- **Windermere staff:** All Windermere staff are currently on contracts that end before the merger takes place because Windemere has been making plans for some time.
- **Shared Facilities Manager:** We will hire a new full-time person (funded by the Windermere building rental income surplus) who will be responsible for all rentals and tenant management in both buildings as well as overall building operations and maintenance. This is separate from our Runnymede custodian role and the cleaning contracts at Windermere.
- **Outreach:** We will hire a new part-time person to help lead and activate community outreach projects in Swansea and Bloor West Village and mobilize community engagement. Partnerships with local organizations, and with the local Stone Soup Network project from Windermere, will be part of our new Community Outreach and Engagement Ministry.

## 6. Windermere Church Building

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- The Windermere building operation has two stable and large long-term anchor tenants, which along with other rentals, provides a financially self-sufficient building operation.
- The Windermere building generates an annual financial surplus after all property costs and after hiring a full-time Shared Facilities Manager.
- Funds from Windermere will create a Windermere Building Fund of \$300,000. This will be increased annually via the surplus to ensure funds are in place for major repairs.
- A team from Runnymede did a technical tour of the Windermere building on April 15. The building is comparable to Runnymede in age and condition.
- All United Church buildings are owned by the United Church of Canada and held in Trust by Communities of Faith. If some day, the Windermere building is no longer affordable for us, it returns to the United Church of Canada for disposition.

# 7. Community Outreach and Engagement Ministry

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- Building on the Windermere outreach legacy and our own initiatives, Runnymede will invite leadership and volunteers to develop a Community Outreach and Engagement Ministry.
- This team will explore and discern a new vision to encompass all we do today and also respond to local community needs in food security, housing, justice and other areas.
- We will hire a part-time community outreach person to help lead the program and activate projects in Swansea and Bloor West Village. Partnerships with local organizations (including potentially the Stone Soup Network) will be part of the plan.
- This paid position will be funded by the Windermere building surplus. The role will be reviewed after 18-months on cost, fit and impact.
- This ministry will be in addition to our continued commitment to Mission & Service, Kenya AIDS Orphans, Community Meal, Refugee Sponsorship, Angel Tree, Christmas Shoeboxes and so on.

## 8. a) Financials – Assets

| Assets                    | Runnymede        | Windermere     | Amalgamated      |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>Restricted</b>         |                  |                |                  |
| Manse Fund                | 384,783          | 75,000         | 459,783          |
| Windermere Building Fund  | 0                | 256,000        | 256,000          |
| Refugee Fund              | 82,188           | 63,500         | 145,688          |
| Outreach/Benevolent Fund  | 6,386            | 10,929         | 17,315           |
| Other Restricted          | 476,580          | 0              | 476,580          |
| <b>Total Restricted</b>   | <b>949,937</b>   | <b>405,429</b> | <b>1,355,366</b> |
| <b>Unrestricted</b>       |                  |                |                  |
| Trustee Unrestricted      | 669,113          | 0              | 669,113          |
| Operating Unrestricted    | 51,083           | 56,000         | 107,083          |
| <b>Total Unrestricted</b> | <b>720,196</b>   | <b>56,000</b>  | <b>776,196</b>   |
| <b>Total Assets</b>       | <b>1,670,133</b> | <b>461,429</b> | <b>2,131,562</b> |

- The merger creates a strong combined set of reserves for Runnymede.
- There are two loans which will be repaid. These figures are after repayment.
- We will have building funds of \$300,000 for each of Windemere and Runnymede, after repurposing some of the Windermere Manse Fund for building reserves. A boiler repair or replacement is currently underway at Windermere, which will use some of these funds.

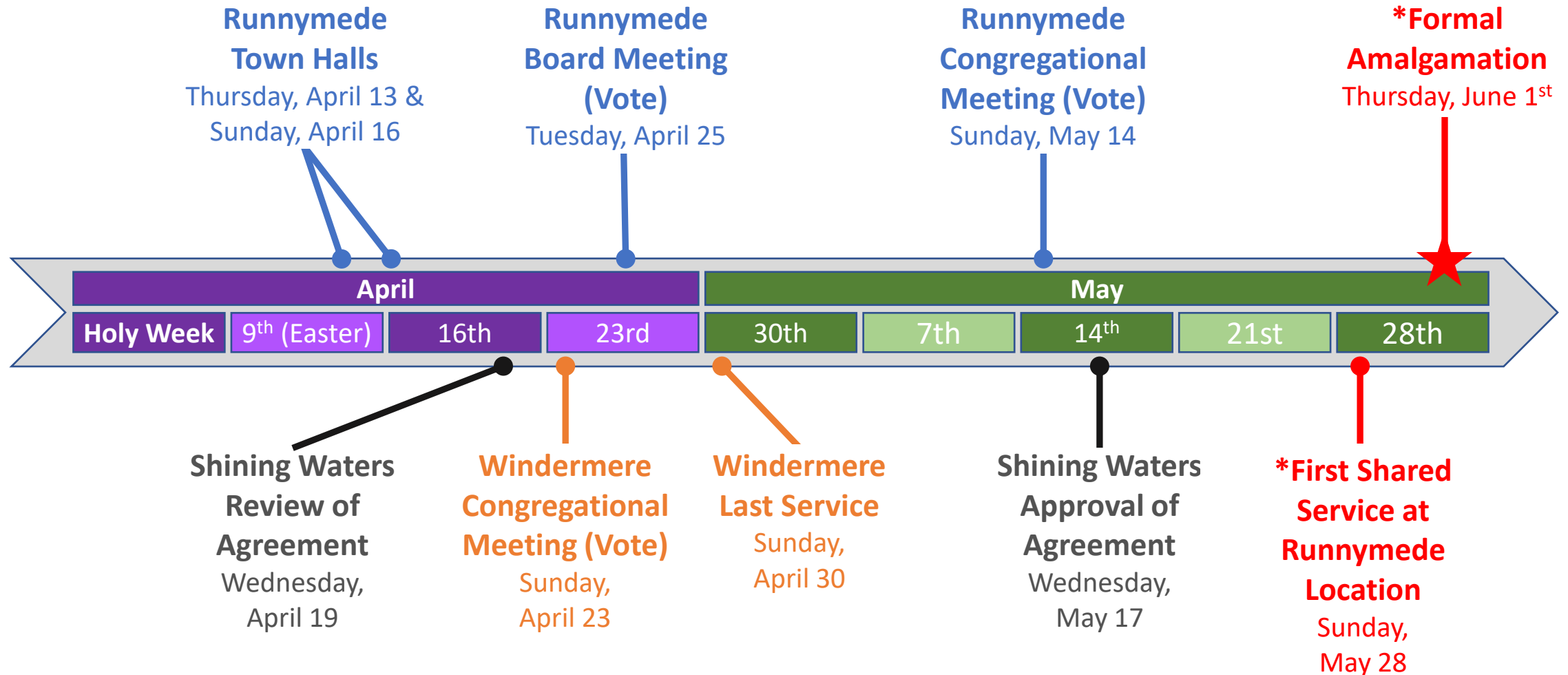
## 8. b) Financials – 3-Year Plan (Post-Merger)

| Runnymede Post-Amalgamation 3 Year Plan | 2023<br>(half year WUC) | 2024           | 2025           |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                           |                         |                |                |
| Donations for Current Operations        | 367,000                 | 378,600        | 377,200        |
| Loose Offerings                         | 1,250                   | 1,500          | 1,750          |
| Rental Income                           | 227,500                 | 355,000        | 357,500        |
| Trustee Manse Fund Contribution         | 20,500                  | 23,000         | 23,000         |
| Fund Raising                            | 12,500                  | 10,000         | 12,500         |
| Special Funds or Draws                  | 25,000                  | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b>653,750</b>          | <b>768,100</b> | <b>771,950</b> |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                         |                         |                |                |
| Staff                                   | 438,000                 | 471,600        | 477,575        |
| Office                                  | 27,000                  | 25,000         | 26,000         |
| Property                                | 132,500                 | 197,500        | 198,500        |
| Regional Assessment                     | 27,000                  | 31,000         | 34,000         |
| HST Refund                              | -17,500                 | -25,000        | -25,000        |
| Program                                 | 12,000                  | 12,500         | 13,000         |
| Transfer to Windermere Building Fund    | 0                       | 20,000         | 20,000         |
| Community Outreach Ministry             | 7,500                   | 25,000         | 25,000         |
| Transition and integration              | 25,000                  | 7,500          | 0              |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | <b>651,500</b>          | <b>765,100</b> | <b>769,075</b> |
| <b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>            | <b>2,250</b>            | <b>3,000</b>   | <b>2,875</b>   |

- This plan supports two full-time clergy positions once the current Supervised Ministry Education (SME) program is completed.

- Based on the existing RUC 3-year plan plus WUC donations, rental income less building property costs and new staff.
- The Windermere building generates a material annual surplus.
- The building surplus enables us to:
  1. Increase ministry staff from 1.5 to 2
  2. Fund Community Outreach Ministry.
  3. Increase building reserves.
  4. Cover merger transition costs.
  5. Reduce annual fund raising needs.
  6. Reduce Trustee deficit funding.
  7. Create a financial cushion.

# 9. Timeline



# 10. Summary

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- A merger creates a two-campus Runnymede United Church, aligned with our Mission, where we can sustainably expand our local community outreach vision.
- We build on the existing Runnymede leadership, staff, volunteers and initiatives, expanded by new members and experience from Windermere and Swansea.
- We create a stronger and more sustainable Runnymede United Church combining stable financial giving and reserves with an ongoing building rental surplus and a commitment to outreach and engagement in a larger neighbourhood.
- A merger supports Windermere's members in continuing to follow God's call in a new home.
- We will be able to sustainably grow our church community, help more people, be more visible and do more in the pursuit of our mission.



## 11. Q&A Discussion

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# Questions?

Be sure to check-out the dedicated merger webpage on our website for regular updates and a compendium of merger related documents.

[www.runnymedeunited.org](http://www.runnymedeunited.org)

# 12. Closing

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## Closing Prayer

Laura Gallagher-Doucette