

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
Options to Consider for Our Future (Presented 1/29/12 at Next Steps Discussion)

Below are the options that have been discussed by Council and the Congregation at the Next Steps Discussion. They are in no particular order and each is opportunity to do God's work. As of June 1st we will no longer have Pastor Ray and Pastor Platz serving our congregation and Judy Marvel will no longer be employed by Good Samaritan as our Music Director. We will work with the Synod to see that pastoral care and worship are continued while we put our decision into action.

At the annual meeting on February 5th you may add additional options. You will also be given three Post-It Notes that you can use to vote for the options. You may use all three to vote for the same option if you wish. Our goal for this exercise is to narrow the choices down to three that will be further explored in the Next Steps Conversations happening after church on February 26, March 11 and March 25. We will then have April and May to map out how we will implement our choice.

1. **DO NOTHING** - The Congregation continues to operate as we are and beginning June 1st have made arrangements for pastoral care, pastoral leadership for worship and a musician.
2. **DISBAND** - The Congregation acts to close the ministry at this site Use an orderly process to provide people with assistance to find another place of worship and serve. Congregation also provides for the liquidation of the property and transferring them to support other ministries.
3. **MERGER** - Two congregations act to join. Both close to start a new ministry with a new identity.
4. **CONSOLIDATION** - One congregation is absorbed into another and the property is sold to fund the one congregation.
5. **YOKE** - Congregation, with help from Synod, arranges a partnership with another congregation to share a pastor and form a blended church council Each congregation maintains separate membership rosters and each retains their property.
6. **2 YEAR INTERNSHIP** - Congregational leadership works with the synod to provide for an internship which would develop a specific ministry to the surrounding community. This includes a willingness to consider a way of redevelopment focused on people in the area with the result being a congregation that would look very different than it does now. This also depends on the synod having someone who could do the task.
7. **SYNOD ADMINISTRATION** - Synod takes responsibility for the management of the property and congregation and moves to closure.
8. **SELL THE BUILDING** - Congregation sells the building and rents a space to stay together as a worshipping congregation.
9. **EMBRACE A BUSINESS MODEL** - Congregation hires a property manager to handle building rentals, possibly even renting the parsonage and we continue as is until we can afford a full-time pastor or cannot muster the volunteers to be a worshipping congregation.