



**EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
February 19, 2019**

Present: Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Donna MacCandlish, Charlie Roden, Alan Morson, Peter Long, Rob Crabtree, Paul Hutchison, Sarah Chapman, Maggie Wilkinson, Gord Thompson, Alan Walker (guest)

Regrets: Marilyn Blair, Jennifer Thompson, Janet Hardy, Hugh DesBrisay, Charlie Roden

Rev. Paul Hutchison offered an opening prayer.

Council welcomed Gord Thompson as the new Chair of the Finance Committee and Alan Walker as a guest to discuss Project Flourish.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. **Young Adult Intentional Community** – Rev. Sarah Chapman updated that she had reported back to Finance Committee on February 12th with answers to questions previously posed by them. Finance voted unanimously on a two-part recommendation to Council to support the Intentional Community project, and their recommendations resulted in the following motion:

MOTION: Moved by Gord Thompson and seconded by Alan Morson that Governing Council of Eglinton St. George's approve:

- The establishment of a Young Adult Intentional Community at ESG (currently labelled as Flourish House) for a two-year pilot period to take place at 92 Craighurst Avenue beginning in September 2019.
- Repairs to 92 Craighurst for this purpose to a maximum of \$35,000 funded from the Property Maintenance Fund and that any excess of revenue over expenses be returned to the Property Maintenance Fund.

CARRIED

Other discussion:

- Alan Walker described successful examples of similar projects at other churches that the team has reviewed and associated benefits to their host congregations.
- It was agreed that an operational committee would be formed to direct all aspects of implementing Flourish House. The committee is to be accountable to Project Flourish which is in turn accountable to Council. The committee will report to council monthly on progress and challenges.
- Council acknowledged the significant work to date on the project by Rev. Sarah Chapman.

2. Project Flourish Update –

- Alan Walker gave an overview of planning so far on the role of the new Marketing and Community Engagement Associate position to be funded through the project, including their responsibilities and coordination function with rest of the church, lay leadership and congregation.
- Donna MacCandlish discussed the marketing research received to date from Environics, which includes interesting information the demographics in the church's target market area. Environics has offered to provide a presentation of their findings in the month of March.
- Rev. Sarah Chapman reviewed the agenda for the upcoming Town Hall meeting on Project Flourish, which is to include updates on goals, the Community Garden, Flourish House, Dinner Church and an invitation for members to join the Project Flourish team.

3. Project 20/20Vison - Council received emailed talking points submitted by Jennifer Thompson:

- Three work streams under initiative include:
 - **Music:** building and enhance strong recognition of choir, venue and music capabilities and creating commitment for investment into organ. Team includes Shawn Grenke, Rob Crabtree, Christine Lawson and David Lemmon.
 - **Facilities:** how to increase the missional and rental use of ESG building and determining what investments are required to enable this, especially with regard to the gym, the associated kitchen and the need for elevator to make both accessible. Team includes Jennifer Torrens and Bev MacAdam.
 - **Taking Care of Our Home:** identifying what funds are required to address upcoming maintenance to church building and grounds in the next few years. Property Committee to table a report on this in April.
- Streams 1 and 3 will provide initial findings by Summer, but longer time required to determine Stream 2. The initiative will lead to a comprehensive report with goals and associated costs. An associated capital campaign is expected to launch in 2020 that will raise funds through donations and any grants that are available. Communication plan to congregation to be developed when more is known about the needs.

Other discussion:

- Susan Moore provided highlights of the first Music team meeting that had already taken place.
- Rev. Paul Hutchison stressed need for a 'One Lift' approach to any capital campaign, i.e., single effort to address all streams and position ESG for the next generation of its ministry needs.

4. Community Garden

- Rev. Sarah Chapman updated Council that the Community Garden would begin in May 2019. The garden would include 10 plots. Reid Robson, who oversees ESG's gardens and studies at George Brown College, will design the garden as a school project. Location of the garden will be 100% on ESG property with the best sun exposure is the front lawn. An application has already been submitted to Canada Summer Jobs to fund student staff for garden.
- Rev. Chapman reviewed the overall budget of \$24,600K with \$17,000 of this to come from Canada Summer Jobs. Options for the \$4,000 of this budget that is currently unfunded were discussed. Next Step: Sarah Chapman, Alan Walker (Project Flourish) and the Community Garden team (Reid Robson and Arlene Duncan) are to identify funding within existing budgets.

5. Affirming Congregation

- Rev. Hutchison confirmed that ESG had completed all requirements to make its status as an affirming congregation now official. Announcement of this to the congregation with a celebration will take place at the first service in May. Signage and a banner are currently being planned and intent is to make ongoing focus on Affirmation part of Vice-Chair of Council's role.

6. Focus on Seniors

- Council discussed research performed by St. Clement's Church that shows some seniors are feeling left behind by the ministry provided by their church. General sense is that there is some concern at ESG and that to help address this, we should begin a process of articulating a part-time Pastoral Care position at the church, something that at present has not been formalized. Some other programming targeting seniors should be considered as well. Rev. Paul Hutchison and Donna MacCandlish agreed to return with more information for next meeting and continue the discussion.

7. Lay Leadership Update – Council voted on the following two motions from the Nominating Committee:

MOTION: Moved by Alan Morson that Governing Council approve Nominating Committee's recommendation that Gord Thompson be appointed Chair of Finance.

CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Peter Long that Governing Council approve Nominating Committee's recommendation that the following persons be approved as the Regional Representatives for our Region: Donna Lang, Alan Morson, Flo Morson and Aubrey Peterson.

CARRIED

Other discussion:

- Caren Cate has accepted the role of Member at Large for Family Ministry
- Heather Parker has agreed to continue as Chair of M&P while a search was conducted for a new Chair
- The search continues for a new Chair of Property
- Catherine Ross has been approached to lead the Spaghetti Dinner in May
- Hugh DesBrisay is looking into possibility of indemnifying Directors and Officers of ESG in response to a question about potential liability for Council members stemming from their role at the church.
- Al Morson's term on Lay Leadership Committee will be up in October 2019. Doug McWhirter has agreed to step in as replacement.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Minutes of the January Meeting - It was moved by Donna MacCandlish and seconded by Heather Parker that the Minutes of January 15, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

2. **North Toronto Cluster** Update – Council heard that the first North Toronto Cluster meeting was well attended with 40 to 50 people. Discussion revolved around how to coordinate in the future and a schedule of monthly meetings was agreed to. Ideas and initiatives for other meetings would stem from these monthly meetings. The meeting was felt to be a positive first step.

3. Ministers' updates

Sarah Chapman:

- Dinner Church continues to be well-supported with 40 people in attendance at the January service despite -20C weather. Next service to be on March 24th and feature art installation.
- Vox Choir will not be holding a March Break camp but will hold one at the end of the Summer.
- Confirmation class will begin on March 4th with Confirmation Service scheduled for June 9th. Currently two youth from ESG enrolled and Sarah trying to recruit others from Fairlawn and/or other churches.

Paul Hutchison:

- Recently completed planning services for upcoming year
- Has been having numerous conversations regarding Lay Ministry engagement
- Currently considering new options for collecting offering such as point-of-sale solutions and electronic gifting by mobile phone.

4. **Finance update** – Financial statements unavailable at present as some items still being finalized, however they should be available for March meeting. Tax receipts have now been sent out. Statements show that donations appear satisfactory and expectation is that they should be on-budget by June 30. Search continues to find replacement bookkeeper with job posting to go up soon and potential option of keeping current one. Council acknowledged the hard work of Charlie Roden, Peter Long, Jennifer Thompson and others during last few months following resignation of previous bookkeeper.
5. **Trustees update** – No update.
6. **Property update** – New doors completed at entrance to West Wing. Furnace replacements nearly complete with humidifiers now being installed. Minor pipe burst at Craighurst property now repaired. Committee requesting help with coffee at Easter Service.
7. **M&P update** – Lenore Aguano retiring as Lay Leadership Coordinator; gift to be presented at upcoming service.
8. **Shining Waters Region update** – No information to report at this time.
9. **Committee Reports** – Committee reports are summarized on pages 6-11 and council noted the amazing work being done at committee level.

Closing prayer: Donna MacCandlish

Motion to Close: Gord Thompson

Motion carried.

ESG Governing Council Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2019

Next Meeting: March 12th, 7-9pm

Town Hall conversation on Project Flourish: March 3rd, noon – 1pm

Coffee and Lunch: March 3rd (Donna organizing)

Susan Moore, Chair

Rob Crabtree for Marilyn Blair, Secretary

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee Report: February 12, 2019

Cluster Meeting

Connie Roden attended the first meeting of our Cluster group and represented Outreach at ESG. Connie reported that many Outreach groups in local area churches are working on the same issues. There was discussion of how to approach advocacy work vs only direct aid to marginalized people. Fairlawn is doing a lot in this area, but is experiencing the common problem of having difficulty attracting new people to participate in leadership roles in this area. We look forward to connecting with other churches in future on how best to serve those in need in Toronto.

Compassionate Justice

Next speaker is [Marie Henein](#) - Sunday February 24th @ 12:30.

Peace with Justice

Next Amnesty International letter signing will be March 3rd.

Thursday Drop in Program

The Thursday Drop In volunteers will be meeting February 20th to discuss the program and determine if any changes are needed – numbers had been low in the fall but have risen quite a bit in January. We have had many donations of food for the cupboard as well as 10 winter survival kits that have been divided up for distribution. A package of 10 sleeping bags was donated to Street Health and 7 boxes of donated women's kits were given to the Fred Victor Women's Shelter. We continue to monitor this program to see how best to allocate Outreach time and resources.

Out of the Cold

Then next OOTC dinner will be February 23rd. A donation of ground beef has already been received for this (meatloaf) meal. The January dinner was a great success, serving about 90 people. New Perspectives group will be sponsoring the March dinner and signup sheets are up in the ESG lobby area for volunteers for dinners and baked goods for desserts. Costs for meals are averaging about \$700 – so on budget.

Good Food Box Program

Next Good Food Box date is Thursday Feb 28th. The team continues to work well and 4-5 boxes of food are donated to people in need every month. Foodshare has increased prices as of Jan 1st by \$1 a box and has reduced the amount we receive as a 'freebie' for every 10 orders placed. Just means a little less food going to the people we donate to – but it's still appreciated. The Good Food Box was highlighted on Sunday Jan 27th with a display of the contents of Paul's box. No additional sign ups as a result but may try this again on a day when more people are in attendance at service.

Harrison Rowland Fund

The cheque for \$7000 to the Volunteer Readers Program was delivered and is greatly appreciated. There will be an insert in the bulletin in February to inform the congregation about opportunities to volunteer as a reader should they be interested. Lenora Butler, who founded the program, said they have another inner-city school asking to introduce the program for their students; Lenora now needs more volunteers to supply the request.

Children's Ministry Report for January 2019

1. Lita
 - New police record check needed (last from 2011) & First Aid – Expired 2012
 - We would like ESG to cover the cost of Lita's first aid course
 - On family services, Lita is alone – we need to make sure there is another supervisor; Kate will put look for teen volunteers (we can offer community service hours)
2. Some concerns about the Action Bible – what age is it appropriate for?
 - Barb has an age-ranking system – perhaps make this more prominent.
 - In a church school newsletter for families Kate will highlight the age-ranking system in use in the library.
3. Purchases for church school nursery
 - New books for the nursery – new table and chairs, toys, table with bins to be used as a touch table
 - Doll bed with multicultural babies
 - We need 8x12 floor covering - Kate is looking into area rugs
 - Mural for nursery – Jen to look into possibilities
 - Kate is working on creating a curriculum for the nursery – themes for a month (e.g. this month is the disciples)
4. Family Fun night – Feb 8 has been cancelled
 - We had 10 people to our fall night; last year at this time no one came
 - Attendance has declined over the years
 - Success when coupled with the Adult carol sing – perhaps this is an opportunity for us moving forward – next opportunity is the pancake supper
5. Pancake Tuesday – March 5 - opportunity to include more family events/activities
 - Prizes for games? Storytelling with Barb?
 - Activity for kids in the church school/nursery rooms?
6. Easter (April 21)
 - We would like to have church school on Easter Sunday - a great opportunity to promote our program
 - Plans in the work

Youth Ministry – Jan 2019

Sunday morning programming:

- Continues to go well with a monthly breakfast which is a more causal way to engage the youth
 - They had a session looking at social media, social beauty standards, and how Snapchat/Instagram can be vehicles to remind us that we are made in the image of God.
 - They had a session on failure - when "failure" is simply a result of unrealistic expectations and how to challenge those expectations, and when "failure" is a little more real and how we can learn to forgive ourselves and others and turn to God's grace.
 - Morgan is also going to reconvene with Natalie Wigg-Stevenson about the possibility of her doing a session on sexuality.
 - He is also looking forward to springtime and doing a session out in the garden around the themes of Creation and care for the Earth.
- Weekly emails go out with a topic and a link to a relevant video

Youth Ministry Working Group Planning

- At the February 2019 meeting, the group will do some visioning as Morgan's term will come to a close in 12 months as he finishes school and the leaders wish to develop a good understanding of possible future directions for engagement and growth

Confirmation

- Discussion on confirmation program in Winter/Spring 2019 with Sarah is underway

University/college students

- Biannual youth alumni () card writing/gift card campaign entailed sending 7 cards to University Youth to wish them good luck on exams. We received a lot of wonderful feedback.

Educational Mens Jamieson Bursary

- In December, Bonnie Joynt visited each of the 5 high schools that we are extending the bursary to. Each principal was very excited and grateful for the opportunity for their students. The bursary site went live on our website in January (under "Caring Community" and "Community Engagement"). Bonnie sent a link with specific instructions to each principal as soon as it went live. The deadline for application is Feb 28th. As of yet, we have not received any applications. Due to the level of excitement from the principals Bonnie anticipates that the applications will be coming any time.

Worship Committee Report for February 12th, 2019

Meetings

- Worship Committee met on February 3rd, 2019. Full update on Council business provided, including PTCC, Intentional Community, Project 20/20 and discussion re. organ restoration.
- Next meeting to take place March 10th.

Review of Recent Services

- The committee discussed the Advent and Christmas services and the strong attendance, which say a cumulative 218 attendees over the 2017 figures for a comparable period from Advent 4 through both Christmas Eve services.
- Committee agreed that for fire safety, future-year Christmas services would only include lit tapers among the congregation for the evening service on Christmas Eve.
- The committee also discussed reintroducing a communion service on Advent 4 and continuing the use of the photographer for family photographs with a mechanism for collecting contact info for follow-up after the service.
- Attendance continues to be strong despite cold weather and ski season.
- Recent January 20th Dinner Church was well supported despite -20C temperatures the afternoon of the event. Next Dinner Church scheduled for March 24.

Ongoing Items and Upcoming Services

- Committee discussed collection of offering with a view to avoiding having empty plates being passed, which may send the wrong message to newcomers. Potential changes include a standard script for ministers to use, and multiple channels for contributing and the installation of special boxes that could be accessed on the way in or on the out of the sanctuary.
- New TV monitors for the sanctuary to be arriving in March.
- Trouble-shooting of sound system revealed that only one of five ceiling speakers were functional. Situation now redressed and new head microphone for Paul Hutchison should improve sound quality during services.
- Sanctuary will move into the round for Lent. Lenten services will focus on theme of seeking right relationships, giving members an opportunity to lament the deep harm inflicted upon the First Peoples of Canada, opening a path for reconciliation and healing and teaching about the acknowledgement of land now included in the weekly bulletin through the lighting of candles, prayer and music.
- Choir is in the midst of preparing for the Spring Concert and the 2019 season.
- Discussion of possible ideas for new services for next year potentially to include All Saints Day.

Adult Education and Pastoral Care – Council Update February 12, 2019

Adult Education

Soul Collage

A workshop was held, led by Rivkah Unland and attended by 13 people (9 from New Perspectives and 4 from the community). Informal feedback was very positive. Patti Thompson will be organizing a follow up meeting.

Mental Health Series

Mary Thomson has been approached to deliver speaking engagements with community groups on the heels of the highly praised 4 sessions she ran for ESG in the fall. The committee is in discussion with Mary about her potentially running a workshop on CBT in February, 2020 or a monthly mental health group on topics that she feels will resonate with some of the people who attended her series.

Lenten Series

Christine Lawson will be checking in with Paul and Sarah to let us know if there is anything the committee can do to assist with delivery of the program.

Embracing Aging

Donna MacCandlish, Arlene Duncan, and Gail Brown are hoping to offer 7 sessions, ideally starting in the spring of 2019. The committee plans to put a note in the bulletin asking for more helpers; it is hopeful that two sessions will be planned for the spring; communication will take place with the 7 churches in the North Toronto Cluster.

Life Story Writing

The committee is endeavouring to organize a session modelled after one that was delivered at Donway Covenant Church, focused on seniors and memoir writing wherein they share stories from each of the decades of their lives, the objectives being to enable seniors to strengthen their acceptance of the many changes that occur in the later years of life, deal with loss of autonomy, help them find new sources of fulfillment, revisit the role of faith and religion and be open to the fullness of life and relationships.

Labyrinth

Planning for a daytime and evening workshop is underway targeted for the March timeframe.

21st Century Faith Topics

Sarah has agreed to chair a panel of young people. This will be followed up by 2 sessions to engage attendees in discussion. Target timing: fall, 2019.

Future Planning

The committee agreed that a spring brainstorming meeting for adult education program ideas will be helpful. One of the ideas put forward was to consider a workshop / educational content on Music and Spirituality. We will be seeking to involve our Ministers and sending out an open invitation to the congregation, inviting those interested to attend.

Pastoral Care

Sunday Drivers

Several notices have been placed in the Sunday bulletin and ESG Weekly News asking for volunteer drivers for Sunday mornings. Response has been minimal.

Flower Delivery

There has been a request from the Flower Committee to reinstate the Sunday flowers delivery program. Don Parsons has suggested that, each Sunday, the Ministers invite anyone in the congregation to take a gift of flowers to come to the Flower Room after the service for a bouquet. The Flower Committee members will make up the bouquets required.

Christmas in a Minor Key

Christmas in a Minor Key was attended by 55 people. Feedback was very positive.

Photo Directory

Arlene will be undertaking to organize an opportunity to update our photo directory next fall sometime between Thanksgiving and late November

Memorial Donations

Concerns have been raised about the processes in place regarding memorial donations. It was proposed that 3 steps be routinely taken:

1. prompt issue of a charitable receipt
2. acknowledgment of the donation from a Minister (preferably) or Chair of Council.
3. notification of the donation to the family