Eglinton St. George's United Church
Extending love · Serving others · Growing in faith

EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
May 14, 2019

Present: Marilyn Blair, Caren Cate, Rob Crabtree, Janet Hardy, Rev. Paul Hutchison, Peter Long, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Alan Morson, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gordon Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson

Regrets: Rev. Sarah Chapman, Hugh DesBrisay,

7:00pm: Opening Prayer - Donna

Priorities

1. **Project Flourish update (Janet)**
   Janet updated the council on the status of the work in progress.
   - Community Garden: Reid has pulled his hamstring so will be limited in his work availability. Arlene Duncan continues to coordinate the volunteers to build the raised beds. The grant from the federal government to hire 4 students has been received, hiring is proceeding.
   - Flourish House: With Rev. Sarah on restorative care leave the plan for this project is being considered. The work to refresh the property is on track for September.
   - Research: proceeding well. Focus groups with priority groups are being planned.

2. **Budget 2019/2020 update**
   A meeting is set for May 22 to discuss the budget for next year emphasising major initiatives that fit the profile of the goals of the church.
3. **Leadership update** no report
4. **Appeal in June** A congregational letter is being drafted regarding a year end financial appeal.
5. **UCC maternity leave policy**
   Heather reviewed the UCC policies around pregnancy and parental leaves and provided information regarding ESG's financial costs during both leaves.

7:40 pm: Business Items

1. **Minutes of the April Meeting**
   It was moved by Donna MacCandlish and seconded by Rob Crabtree that the minutes of April 14 be approved. **Carried**
2. **Paul & Sarah's Update.** No report
3. **Finance** Gord Thompson updated the need for the financial appeal as our donations are below budget.
4. **Trustees** no report
5. **Property** no report
6. **M&P** no report
7. **Shining Waters Region** Al discussed the upcoming annual meeting.

Cluster update Susan reported that 2 of the initiatives discussed in the cluster groups have been well received and are moving forward – pulpit exchange and the youth program (Go Your Own Way)

8. Committee report highlights found on pages 2 – 8.

Maggie Wilkinson moved a motion, seconded by Donna MacCandlish that ESG Council endorse adding ESG United Church as signatory to the Community to Community Social Planning Letter addressed to Mayor John Tory. This is in regards to budget cutting for poverty strategies. **Carried**

Closing Prayer – Paul

Next Meeting: - Governing Council, June 11th 7-9pm @Susan's house, 172 St. Clements Avenue; 1 hour meeting followed by drinks and nibbles

Chair – Susan Moore **Secretary – Marilyn Blair**

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee Report: May 14, 2019.

Compassionate Justice

nothing new to report this month.

Peace with Justice

We held a successful petition signing on May 5th to coincide with the Affirming service. Petitions highlighted LGBTQ cases in various countries. We also collected signatures on a petition asking the province to stop cuts to funding for Legal Aid programs that benefit immigrants and refugees and those without financial resources to hire lawyers when making claims. We collected aver 40 signatures for each petition.

Thursday Drop in Program

The program continues to support those who need a little extra to get by each month. The April 'ask' brought in a good amount of money to fund the program. We continue to average about 13 people per week – some weeks more than others. The Drop In group will meet in June to review the program and determine if any changes are warranted.

Out of the Cold

Arlena Hebert reported that Blythwood Baptist Church, where OOTC is located, is facing the possible need for renovations to keep the program running. Reports will be coming soon regarding possible building maintenance requirements, at which time the Out of the Cold Board will be exploring options. We hope the program can continue to run as it has been and we await information about next steps.

Good Food Box Program

Next Good Food Box date is Thursday May 23rd. Our small team continues to work well and 4-6 boxes of food are donated to people in need every month.

Outreach Planning

The Outreach Committee met on May 6th. We discussed a number of issues, among them the possibility of Outreach connections through Project Flourish that will depend on the energies and interested of the people who take up residence in Flourish House, and the completion of the Community Garden. It was felt that current Outreach programs are running well and meeting a need. We will be meeting in September to make decisions on donations to agencies for 2019-20.

Region Level Discussions

On May 7, Connie and Maggie met for an informal discussion with other Social Justices representatives from congregations in the North Toronto Cluster. There was great enthusiasm for the Community Garden at ESG; possibly another congregation close by might purchase a plot? It was helpful to hear what other groups were doing as far as Outreach and Social Justice is concerned. It was agreed that a grassroots approach to advocacy was necessary along with having a visible presence to speak up on Social Justice issues in the

community. We also discussed forming a mechanism for sharing information among cluster reps and how the greater UCC could assist us with this work.

Social Planning Letter to Mayor John Tory

Outreach has been asked if our 'organization' would be able to sign a letter to Mayor Tory regarding the upcoming budget planning for 2020. I am not sure Council approval is required to do this, but since we would be signing on behalf of ESG United Church and not just the Outreach Committee, Outreach would like to have the approval of Council before signing on to this letter. The text of the letter is below:

May 7, 2019

Mayor John Tory and Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto, ON

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Congratulations to the new Council on the passage of your first budget.

As Council sets its direction for City staff on the drafting of the 2020 City Budget, we urge you to remember the commitment that over three-quarters of Council, including the Mayor, made during last year's election campaign. In signing the Prosperity Pledge, you committed to fully fund the city's Poverty Reduction Strategy. With the Province seemingly taking a different direction on prosperity, we further urge you to fully consider a wide range of forward-thinking Council-approved strategies. These are well-thought- out strategies, and city residents deserve to benefit from their full implementation.

These strategies include:

- TO Prosperity: Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy
- Youth Equity Strategy

- Seniors Strategy
- Toronto Newcomer Strategy
- Housing Opportunities Toronto
- Recreation Service Plan
- Child Care Growth Strategy
- TransformTO: Climate Action for a Prosperous, Healthy and Equitable Toronto
- Middle Childhood Strategy These City strategies respond to geographical, population-specific, and service needs of the people of Toronto, including housing, transportation, recreation, childcare, employment, and food security. The City's budget process would benefit from using a clear and transparent equity lens, and we strongly support Council's deepening engagement with a robust, intersectional, gender-equity analysis. This policy lens means looking at all policy, program, and budgeting decisions in terms of who it helps and who it hurts, not just in terms of how much they cost.

In recent years, City divisions have shaped their budgets mostly from the previous year's spending, and sometimes adding inflation. This makes the budgets much more focused on previous spending levels instead of on being focused on the vision of the adopted strategies. Instead of making choices that reflect real priorities, the City adopts across-the-board increments or cuts. This process makes no distinction between more routine services like street sweeping and life-saving services like the provision of homeless shelters.

As a result of this, thousands of Torontonians have been let down by successive budgets. The prospective results of the 2019 budget, examined through the lens of the Prosperity Pledge commitments made by the majority of Council during the last election campaign, look as follows:

Based on Current Pace of Action

Prosperity Pledge election promise to be fulfilled by 2022	# Years it Will Take to Fulfill Election Promise	Year Election Pr

7,200 new supportive housing units	16.9	2035
At least 8,000 new deeply affordable rental housing units	14.1	033
1,000 new shelter spaces	1	2020
Reduced TTC fares for an additional 157,000 lower-income adults	6.8	2025
11,500 new child care spaces	24.5	2043
5,000 subsidized child care spaces	26.3	2045
40,000 new recreation program spaces	5.3	2024

Analysis by Social Planning Toronto (A City Left Behind, 2019)

Toronto can do better.

The City can create budgets that are real reflections of the city we want to build together. We can do this by recognizing who is hurt when we cut specific services, or raise transit fares, or default on commitments to housing and poverty reduction. And we must remember that we all have a stake in that. The 2020 budget should not just be another budget like the previous ones. We need a budget that shapes itself around the needs of the city, the promises of Council, and the equity policy that Council has committed to. We acknowledge that these are real challenges. They involve real choices.

- Are we more committed to specific capital projects such as roads or new information technologies than we are to the provision of safe housing and shelter for all people?
- Is the promise to keep any changes to property taxes at inflation more important than the promise to keep transit fares low or the promise to reduce poverty?
- And what revenue tools will the City develop and use to meet our needs and achieve our shared equity goals?

To build an inclusive city it is vital that Council adopt more revenue tools. Council has lost significant revenue by keeping property taxes well below the GTA average. City consultations – the Core Service Review in 2011 and the Long-Term Financial

Plan – show that many residents favour a modest tax increase when the alternative is reduced services and continued deprivation.

Recommendations for the 2020 budget: Budget Direction Motion, June 2019:

. 1) Direct staff to update the costing of the operating and capital commitments the City has made to achieve our shared goals as a community as reflected in the policies, plans, and strategies that Council has adopted.

. 2) Direct staff to find equitable and sustainable ways to fully fund the City's commitments in its strategies, including raising property taxes and adopting specific revenue tools, for inclusion in the 2020 Budget.

. 3) Put people first when deciding on priorities and indicate which specific budget lines (divisions and boards) should receive above city-wide-average funding increases, rather than arbitrarily adopting across-the-board spending targets that ignore the relative significance of different programs and investments.

Throughout the Budget Process:

. 4) Refrain from setting preconditions on the budget – such as a predetermined tax rate or spending limit – that prevent Council from making choices in full consideration of their social and economic impacts.

. 5) Implement the intersectional, gender equity lens Council adopted as an element in budget discussions, processes, and decisions, so Council and the public can see when budget decisions make already severe inequality in our City even worse. It is understood that such a robust intersectional lens must also provide – and be seen to provide – for a critical and necessary racial justice impact analysis.

. 6) Host, with the support of City staff, Community Town Halls in the summer or early fall of 2019, before the divisional and board budgets are completed, in order to receive public input on budget priorities.

Together we can build a city where people from all backgrounds can thrive and prosper. We look forward to working with you on making Toronto a livable city for all.

Sincerely, (listed alphabetically)

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Report for May 14th, 2019

Meetings

- WSMC met on March 28th, April 9th and April 28th, 2019, to refine role of committee and discuss ways its mandate can provide optimal value to support the evolving needs of ministerial leadership and the many new initiatives underway at the church.

- New directions include increased frequency of meetings with use of technology if required for members unable to attend in person and also quarterly attendance by arm's length functions of the committee such as greeters, lay readers, flowers, communion and baptism.

- Next full committee meeting is scheduled for June 5th.

Service and Music Update

- Easter services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday were well supported and well received.

- Affirming Service on May 5th featuring Rev. Evan Noodin Smith was a success.

- Ministry team has draft Worship schedule for the next year and will be reviewing it with WSMC members at next meeting.

Upcoming Services and Other Items

- Service on May 26th will be led by Don Parsons and Morgan Bell.

- Youth-led service on June 9th for Pentecost.

- The 2019 church picnic will follow the service on June 2nd.

- Plans for summer 2019 include Paul and Sarah leading services in July and Don Parsons leading services in August with assistance from Doug Reid of WSMC.

- Worship Chair Christine Lawson continues to be involved in ESG budget discussions this year.

M&L for Children and Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry

There has not been a meeting for Youth Ministry. It is planned for later this month

Children's Ministry

There has not been a meeting for the Children's Ministry. It is also planned for later this month.

I can report that the Easter service was very successful. We had 35 children downstairs and 5 in the nursery. Kate set up different stations with crafts. There was an egg hunt and the children left with goodie bags (age appropriate). Very impressive.