

**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH  
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)  
June 16, 2020**

**Present:** John Blevins, Marilyn Blair, Caren Cate, Rob Crabtree, Hugh DesBrisay, Kathleen Hull, Paul Hutchison, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson,  
Guests: Christine Lawson, Alan Walker, Peter Wilkins

Maggie Wilkinson opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Project Flourish

Alan Walker updated the Council on the progress of marketing and communication using a power point presentation intended to be used with focus groups which would be gathered to comment on the final material that will be used to increase ESG's visibility to the community within and without.

Grant moneys have been approved by the government summer program for students and a supervisor to be hired.

Donna MacCandlish reviewed the program for focus groups that will meet via zoom to discuss the communication material.

2. 20/21 Assumptions and Implications

Susan reviewed the progress of the planning group looking at the implications for re-opening the building in regards to the staff, tenants, additional materials required, contact tracing capabilities. A great deal of work has been done and continues to be prepared.

3. Ambassador program

Donna reported that the Ambassador Program, where a telephone communication group has been organized to greet all members of the congregation, is quite successful and much appreciated.

4. Year-end Appeal

Approximately 50% of the goal has been received to date.

## 5. Shining Waters

Peter Wilkins presented a report from Shining Waters entitled “A Regional Statement on Anti-Black Violence and Racism”(attached) requesting an endorsement of Council which was given.

### **Business Items**

#### 1. Minutes of the May Meeting.

Caren Cate moved and Maggie Wilkinson seconded a motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2020 CARRIED

#### 2. Financial Update.

A very good response to the year-end appeal was reported but the deficit to budget is still significant. Some CEWS money has been received.

#### 3. Paul’s Update

Plans continue to prepare for the summer. Holiday schedule: Don-July, Paul-August, Sarah returns in September.

#### 4. M&P – no report

#### 5. Trustees – no report

#### 6. Property

John reported on the progress of retrofitting the lighting system by changing all 744 units with LED bulbs. With grant money from United Church and rebates from Independent Electricity System Operator this could be done at no charge.

John Blevins moved and Gord Thompson seconded a motion that ESG Council approve submitting an application to Faithful Footprints program of the United Church of Canada for consideration of a grant of up to \$30,000. CARRIED

#### 7.c Committee report highlights.

Christine Lawson congratulated Paul for his 25 year anniversary of Ordination. We are grateful for his leadership and Sharon’s support.

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Chair - Susan Moore

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Secretary – Marilyn Blair

Council meetings July  
September 22, 2020 7-9 pm  
October 20, 2020 7-9 pm  
Annual Congregational meeting: October 18, 12-1 pm

## Reports

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Report for June 16th, 2020

### Meetings

- Committee met on May 26<sup>th</sup> to review the Worship Grid for 2020 and discuss plans for the *Unravelled* series planned for the summer months of 2020. Both items were presented to the congregation at the Town Hall meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, by Paul Hutchison.

- Committee also provided input into ongoing reimagining of music programme for before and after restart of live services due to limitations to our ability to include congregational and choral singing until after COVID threat has diminished. The committee sent a representative to a follow-up brainstorming session with the Music Director and choral leads to discuss possibilities for fall 2020.

### Other Updates

- Committee plans to meet at the end of June and once or twice during the summer, as needed. Meeting dates to be confirmed with committee members.

## **A Regional Statement on Anti-Black Violence and Racism - June 8, 2020**

[Racism is an ongoing sin existing within our communities.](#) It is with both lament and anger that we respond to the recent killing of George Floyd at the hands of law enforcement officers, as well as additional examples of anti-Black violence emerging across North America. The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Regis Korchinski-Paquet further highlight the injustices encountered by Black civilians every single day.

Anti-Black discrimination is not new, and it is important to name the systemic racism that exists within the Canadian context, as well as within the Church. It is also important to name the trauma, grief, fear and anger, experienced over and over again, by peoples of African descent and their allies. No parent should have to wonder if [their child will make it home alive after](#)

[interacting with the police](#). No person in a public space should need to fear that [law enforcement will be weaponized against them](#). Hundreds of years of firmly established racism have brought us to this point of deep seated pain and outrage.

We know many of you are grieving right now, and that statements of solidarity are empty without follow through. Be assured, this note is only one of many conversations and communications to come. **An action plan for how Shining Waters Regional Council will address the pandemic of racism within our midst will be released after an intentional *first phase of listening to the experiences and expectations of racialized members within the Region***. We have realized that in order to approach this work thoughtfully and authentically, it is necessary for Regional Staff and the Social & Ecological Justice Commission to go through their own internal work first. In the meantime, we know it is important for Communities of Faith to know where the Regional Council stands.

Black lives matter.

We **affirm** our support for demonstrators,  
and pray for their safety.

We **denounce** the violence perpetrated by those in positions of power,  
and long for their hearts to be moved through repentance.

We **lament** our own complacency and complicity;  
for staying silent in times when we should have done more,  
and ask forgiveness from those whom we have neglected and harmed.

We **commit** to speaking out against all forms of racism, anti-black violence,  
and changing our own structures and ways of being with one another,  
rejecting the status quo in order to more fully realize God's call to love all our siblings...

...because, justice is what love looks like in public.

Yours in Christ,

**Outreach Committee Report: June 16 , 2020.**

## **Compassionate Justice:**

Compassionate Justice's speaker series has concluded for this year. They will be meeting in the future to discuss plans for next year's programming. CJ has donated \$1000 to the Thursday Drop In program to help with covering costs for this year.

## **Peace with Justice**

Meetings have been cancelled. Amnesty International petitions / letters are being distributed online through the weekly email.

## **Thursday Drop in Program**

The Drop In program has been suspended due to COVID 19. The last drop in service day was March 12<sup>th</sup>. The program will not run as it has been even come the fall. The Outreach team will spend some time over the next months re-imagining what direct Outreach can look like at ESG. In the mean time, we are trying to cultivate a contact list of our guests who were in great need and in our catchment area. We are reaching out to those people through donations of Good Food Boxes and occasionally vouchers and food to assist them make ends meet.

## **Out of the Cold**

At this time, we are uncertain about the future of the Out of the Cold program in Toronto for next year. We will await word from the city and from the OOTC board about what will be possible come next November.

## **Good Food Box Program**

The program running twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG for May and June. We are filling a need for some neighbours who are not able to get out to the grocery store easily. In May, we gave away 10 boxes of food to those in need, including our Syrian families and some of our Drop In clients who appreciate the support. In June, we anticipate giving away 10 more boxes, a result of discount boxes through the program as well as donations by participants in the program.

The New Perspectives have also generously donated \$500 towards the purchase of food boxes in the fall to allow us to expand the program further as we learn of more people who can use a box.

## **DISMAS**

The plan for a barbeque for DISMAS in June is on hold due to COVID. We look forward to continuing our support for this group next year. Two of our Good Food Box recipients are DISMAS members.

### **Gifts to Agencies**

On June 11, ESG was able to donate \$1500 to each of The Massey Centre, Fred Victor COVID Fund, Street Health and Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM), for a total of \$6000. We plan to send another disbursement at the end of June when the Pandemic Support campaign is concluded. Thank you notes will be sent to all who donated for whom we have contact information.

### **Farewell to Outreach Coordinator**

As a result of the changes to Outreach programming, including the loss of the Drop In program as it has run in the past, the Outreach team in consultation with Paul has decided to go without a staff position for the coming year. We will use this time to re-imagine how we can do Outreach at ESG, and hope to draw on new volunteers to create deeper connections with the agencies we support as well as expand other programs such as the Good Food Box that can operate quite successfully in a COVID environment.

We give thanks to Donna Lang for her service over the past 2.5 years, for her hard work making connections outside the walls of ESG and for her persistence in pushing us to broaden our thinking as to what Outreach can mean at ESG. Connie and Maggie delivered a small gift to Donna last week to recognize all she has done for Outreach.

### **Property Committee Notes for June 16 Council meeting**

#### Update on Driveway project

The work on the driveway is scheduled to start in late August and requires a deposit of \$20,000 for the first installment very soon.

Reid Robson of the property Committee and Mike Trewartha of Power Application Group Inc. are going to select the pavers next week and finalize the design.

#### Lighting Project

We are in the process of applying for a grant from the United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints program. This is a retro-fit program worth up to a max of \$30,000 to help congregations “green” their facilities. We are applying for the full \$30K.

ESG plans to replace all 744 remaining incandescent lights in the facility with high efficiency LED bulbs and tubes. If we get the grant from UCC and a rebate from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for approval of a Rebate incentive there is zero cost to ESG and an annual savings in electricity of about 41,500 kWh (@\$0.18/kWh = \$7500) plus an additional \$500 savings in maintenance and parts. (The energy savings are dependent on usage and occupancy.)

*We will not commit until we have secured approval of the grant and the rebate from both United Church of Canada Faithful Footprints program and Toronto Hydro (IESO) respectively.*

**MOTION: Proposed by John Blevins and seconded by Gordon Thompson that ESG approve submitting an application to Faithful Footprints program for consideration of a grant of up to \$30,000.**

#### Building Automation System (BAS)

We have received a quote from Power Application Group Inc., to implement the phase II of the BAS. In preparation for funding this work we have submitted an application to Toronto Hydro for a rebate in the order of \$4450. Should it be granted, the balance of the cost (\$5,750) of implementing the Phase II work will

more than covered by the energy savings in the first year. These savings are projected to be 44,500 kWh/yr. (@\$0.18/ kWh = \$8,000/yr.) in addition to a saving in natural gas consumption.

Phase II work consists of fitting the rest of the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) system with sensors, which allow for real time monitoring and adjustment of the system to optimize energy use. [*Phase I saves ESG about \$13,000 annually in electricity charges.*]

*We will not commit until we have secured approval of the rebate from Toronto Hydro (IESO) and sourced the remaining funding.*