



**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
March 17, 2020**

Present: Rob Crabtree, Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Marilyn Blair, John Blevins, Hugh DesBrisay, Donna MacCandlish, Maggie Wilkinson, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Don Parsons

Guests: Doug McWhirter, Christine Lawson, Shawn Grenke

Regrets: Caren Cate, Rev. Paul Hutchinson

The meeting was opened with prayer by Marilyn Blair.

Susan welcomed everyone who was able to part of the meeting as we begin a complicated time at the beginning of isolation due to the covid-19 virus.

Most of the meeting was focused on the ESG response to the covid-19 virus following the recommendations presented by the Emergency Planning Team following health
In attempting to keep business as usual

everyone, who can, will work from home,

the building will be closed,

the custodian will be on duty at the church,

all meetings and activities will be cancelled,

services in an altered form will be streamed through the internet,

connections with members will be expanded, directed by the pastoral care team and family ministry teams

communication with the congregation will be increased through the website or email

the Thursday outreach program will continue for this week.

The finances forecast will be a challenge to maintain without regular services at the church and events such as rummage. Alternate methods of donating will be encouraged.

Great efforts are being made to maintain the activities of the church by the planning committee and leaders of the divisions for which we are immensely grateful.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved by a motion by Charlie Roden and seconded by Donna MacCandlish. CARRIED

Chair: Susan Moore

Secretary: Marilyn Blair

Next meeting: April 21, 2002

Reports:

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Report for March 17th, 2020

Meetings

- Committee met on March 5th to review early planning for the Worship season of 2020-21 which is being aligned as possible with the directions set through Project Flourish. A follow-up meeting is planned for March 26th to continue the process.
- Rob and Christine will also take part in strategic alignment exercise with the rest of the church leadership at the end of March.
- Next committee meeting scheduled for April 16th, 2020, and will include a review of the findings from study to compare ESG rates for services and space use with rates from peer churches.

Other Updates

- March 1st worship service in conjunction with baptism of Ruby Eleanor at St. Matthew's United Church was a success with a strong representation from ESG members and the choir.
- Next Dinner Church service currently scheduled for April 19th, 2020, however this is subject to change due to current COVID 19 situation.

Outreach Committee Report: March 17, 2020.

Compassionate Justice:

Beverley McLachlin was the final speaker in this year's series on Feb 23. It was a full house and much enjoyed by all who attended. The Compassionate Justice group will be meeting in April to discuss plans for next year.

Peace with Justice

The next Amnesty letter signing will be May 10th. The March 8th letter signing focused on a human rights activist in the Philippines who is receiving credible death threats. We asked that the authorities offer protection and investigate these threats and the murder of other activists in the Philippines.

Peace with Justice will be discussing how to more effectively highlight Amnesty International cases at ESG at our next meeting.

Thursday Drop in Program

The program continues to run smoothly. we are looking at ways to deepen our relationship with our guests, including inviting them to come to Dinner Church, to work in the Community Garden in a designated Outreach plot, and possible mentoring relationships with congregation members. Outreach will continue to discuss these ideas and make a plan to get the word out to the congregation.

Out of the Cold

There is one more Out of the Cold dinner scheduled for this year: Mar 28. The New Perspectives group is donating \$350 towards the cost of this dinner as well as volunteering to prepare and serve it. The Out of the Cold program continues to be very successful under the leadership of Arlena Hebert. There is also interest from Flourish House residents in participating in OOTC next season.

Good Food Box Program

We gave away 4 boxes of food last month to families in need. Next Good Food Box date is Thursday March 26th.

DISMAS

DISMAS is a support group for people who have been incarcerated and are now learning how to live in society. Several ESG members participate in bi-weekly dinners that are located at St. Leonard's Anglican Church (close to the Lawrence subway). ESG is now supporting 2 of these dinners with contribution of food and a volunteer to prepare and serve the meal. The next meal will be a barbeque in June. We also support the people involved in DISMAS when we hire individuals to work at the ESG rummage sales to do set up and clean up.

Syrian Refugee Group

Hala and Yahya Rajab received their Canadian citizenship on Feb 22nd. Members of the ESG Refugee support group attended this very exciting event and the Rajab families invited us to their apartment for a wonderful lunch afterwards. It was a great day; Kate Littler shared photos and made an announcement in the service on Feb 23rd. Kate and Kristen will write up an update on the families for the email bulletin.

Looking Ahead

The Outreach Committee met on Feb 24th to learn more about Flourish and to think about planning for the coming year. We also met on March 9th to discuss our current programs, consider how they fit as far as the Gateways to Goodness strategy, and to consider how to move forward with Outreach in the coming year. Connie Roden will be submitting a report to the planning group based on that meeting.