



**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL
November 19, 2019**

Present: Marilyn Blair, John Blevins, Caren Cate, Rob Crabtree, Rev. Paul Hutchinson, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Alan Morson, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson

Regrets: Hugh DesBrisay,

7:00pm: Opening Prayer Paul opened the meeting with prayer

Priorities .

- 1. Stewardship Update** Paul reported that stewardship letters have been prepared and sent out. Thank you letters and Christmas pastoral letters have also been prepared. The square pay system will be available for the Christmas eve offering.
- 2. Blyth School**
Discussions with Blyth School regarding their future requirements at ESG are ongoing.
- 3. North Toronto Cluster**
A meeting was held at the Transform Café, an initiative of Glebe United Church on Yonge Street. January 26 – Pulpit Exchange, Cluster meeting a ESG to discuss youth, grants, adult studies, collaboration ideas between churches.
- 4. Lay Ministry**
Since three representatives to the Shining Waters Region have chosen to step down a new approach has been initiated. Peter Wilkins has agreed to the lead liaison between the Region and Council without being required to attend each Council meeting. Council will provide approved minutes to Peter for his information.

Business Items

1. Minutes of the October Meeting

A motion was made by Heather Parker and seconded by Charlie Roden that the minutes of the October meeting be approved. CARRIED

2. **Finance (Gord)** Charlie reported on YTD results. Revenue and expenses are below budget and prior year expectations. Timing is a factor and potentially the budget monthly assumptions. The full package of financial reporting is under development.
3. **M&P**
Heather complimented the staff on their excellent performances in new and challenging situations.
4. **Property**
John reported on the building repairs either completed or pending.
Sanctuary roof leak
West Wing roof leak
West transept door replacement
Duplex drain inspection completed
Front courtyard design planning in progress
Choral risers solutions in hand
5. **Shining Waters Region**
Two meetings are planned – May for the newly ordained and October annual meeting.
6. **Committee report highlights included**

Closing Prayer was led by Heather

Next Meeting: - Governing Council January 21, 2020

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Blair

Outreach Committee Report: November 19, 2019.

Compassionate Justice:

Speaker Paula Mallea is scheduled for Nov 17th.

Harry Nigh, Jan 19th; Beverley McLachlin, Feb 23. This is the 10th year for the series!!

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice will meet on November 28th. Next Amnesty letter signing is December 15th
– Write for Rights campaign.

Thursday Drop in Program

The program continues to run smoothly. To being the month of November, we served 32 guests. We have served an average of about 15 people per week to date.

The program has switched to providing Loblaw gift cards and Presto tickets to better serve our guests.

Out of the Cold

Out of the Cold dinners have been scheduled for this year: Nov 9, Dec 21, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 28. Volunteer sign up lists have been posted in the narthex. The November dinner served about 138 people – more than usual. Donations of food to the dinner have helped to defray costs.

Good Food Box Program

We gave away 4 boxes of food last month to families in need. Next Good Food Box date is Thursday Nov. 28th.

Fair Trade Certification

We need a champion to take on attention to our Fair Trade designation. We have received re-certification for this year. The Fair Trade Fair will happen on November 24th, with new groups participating.

Rummage Sale

The Rummage Sale, as well as being a great fundraiser for ESG, supports our Outreach partners with donations of items they need. This October's sale supported some 'regular' outreach partners as well as several new ones:

Wychwood Open Door (Clothing cupboard operated by Rosedale UC)

Metropolitan Out of the Cold program

DISMAS

Camp Scugog

Romero House

Cuba Mission

Rotary Club – downtown mission work

Dress for Success

Donations to Agencies

The Outreach Committee met in September to discuss and decide on how to distribute the \$8000 of Outreach funds provided through the ESG Operating Budget for Outreach organizations. Here are the results:

AURA (Anglican Union for Refugee Assistance) \$500

Canada Foodgrains \$500

Camp Scugog \$1500

CRC (Christian Resource Centre) \$500

TUNM (Toronto Urban Native Ministry) \$1000

Massey Centre \$1000

Wychwood Open Door \$500

Street Health \$1000

Sistering \$500

U of T Chaplaincy Gender and Sexual Identity Fund \$500

DISMAS (local group that meets at St Leonard's Church) - offering \$500 worth of support to purchase food for twice monthly dinners through the year.

\$4000 of these donations will be disbursed in early December and the balance in early June. We feel these groups are all very deserving of our funds as they are doing great work on a shoestring budget in the community. We hope to arrange for some tours to some of the agencies and/or to have representatives come speak at ESG in the New Year.

We will also be collecting donations of goods and money for the following groups as part of our Advent Gifts on Sunday Dec 8th:

Massey Centre

Fred Victor Womens' Shelter

TUNM

ESG Thursday Drop In program

Upcoming/ Recent Outreach Events

Fair Trade Fair Sunday Nov 24th

Advent Gifts Sunday Dec 8th

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Report for November 17th, 2019

Meetings

- Committee met on November 10th and convened wider group of lay leaders that administer lay readers, communion, flowers and decoration, and greeting/offering. Progress and issues discussed, including long-term succession planning.

- Next meeting scheduled for January 9th, 2020, and will include lay leaders responsible for baptism and sound system in sanctuary.

- Recent services have been well-received overall. Committee supporting ministerial staff in coordinating services originally to be led by Sarah Chapman, including youth-led service on November 24th and guest preacher from Parish Collective on January 19th.

Other Updates

- First of six Dinner Church services for 2019-20 was held on October 20th. Next one to be held on November 24th. Worship Chair currently working with Dorothy Carson to help coordinate this programme.

- Committee continues to seek additional members.

The following programs are underway, being planned or under discussion:

1) Compassionate Listening: Champion is Patti Thompson

The first two sessions went well with attendance of 39 and 35 respectively. The last two sessions are scheduled for November 6th and 20th.

Patti will distribute a feedback form on the last evening.

2) Connecting through Stories: Champion is Bonnie Joynt

Bonnie presented a 7 week program of life story writing targeting 8 seniors in the congregation. She has prepared an outline and questions to stimulate the writing.

She will be reaching out to some of the existing groups within ESG such as Unit 12 and the Men's Sunday morning group.

The committee has offered to help with marketing and any other ways that Bonnie requires.

3) Blanket Exercise: Champion is Christine Lawson

Dates are set:

Sunday, May 24: Introduction and overview of the blanket exercise

Saturday, May 30th: The blanket exercise

Sunday, May 31: reflection on the blanket exercise

Presenter is Rev. Evan Smith

4) Mental Health: Champion is Mary Thomson

Mary presented the outline of a 4 part series on CBT and its uses for depression, anxiety, and anger.

She will check with Jennifer Torrens about scheduling the South Studio for 4 weeks in a row on a Tuesday or Wednesday in the period from February-early April.

5) Embracing Aging: Champion is Donna MacCandlish

Donna shared the 3 sessions which have been booked starting in January:

January 12th: Moving on Smartly

February 2nd: Aging in Place

March 29th: Speaker booked: Scam Alert

Donna is looking to schedule one more session, possibly on Personal Care Directives. There will also be a fair in May-June.

6) Millennial Panel: Champion is Jim Black

Jim is exploring the opportunity to put together a panel of millennials including the 3 tenants of Flourish House, Aiden (youth worker), and Parse.

He will solicit help from Samantha Kavanaugh.

7) Lifelong Learning: Champion is Janet Hardy (with assistance from Patti Thompson)

We discussed the opportunity to provide interesting podcasts, websites, books, and YouTube videos to the congregation. Initiative to be delayed until Project Flourish has hired a marketing and communications person.

8) Other adult education opportunities

Labyrinth: The committee was excited by Cathie Stewart's suggestion to incorporate a labyrinth on the front lawn. She is going to follow up with the property committee, Arlene Duncan, and Susan Moore.

Social Anxiety: session for young people

Progressive Christianity discussions (as previously run by Jim Black and well received by the congregation)

Becoming: use Michelle Obama's book as the basis for a session on finding meaning in one's life. What are you becoming?

