EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
September 17, 2019

Present: Caren Cates, Sarah Chapman, Rob Crabtree, Hugh DesBrisay, Janet Hardy, Paul Hutchison, Peter Long, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson

Regrets: Marilyn Blair, Al Morson

Special guests: Alan Walker, Lisa Elder, Jennifer Thompson, Doug McWhirter

7:00pm: Opening Prayer – Janet

Priorities

1. **Project Flourish** (Sarah, Janet, Al, Lisa)
   - **Sarah** distributed copies of the Flourish presentation, reviewed slides outlining the phases for the project
   - **Lisa –** explained the methodology of the research and reviewed the findings
   - **Janet thanked Lisa and Alan** for all their hard work and expertise
2. **Thrive** (Jennifer) - gave an update on feedback from the Thrive presentation from Sept 5.
   - Feedback from Council and Trustees: positive on the purpose and focus of Thrive; greater specificity is needed about new programs, understanding revenues and costs of music program, including organ repair
   - The approach is to slow down the major capital campaign fundraising; work with the various teams to get more specificity on plans; Gala still happening in May
   - The need for a person to head up revenue leadership (or a team to work on revenue generation) was discussed. Susan and Jennifer working on how this issue can be addressed, who might be interested /able
3. **Paul and Sarah Update (Paul and Sarah)**
   Paul's update
   - Taste and See coming – some feed back of exclusion due to the age group listed in the communications regarding the events. Focus on trying to build the next generation.
   - 20th anniversary of amalgamation – staff gathering on Friday Sept 20 to celebrate (photo albums of the time are out for perusal for the next few weeks)
   - Cluster Meeting – www.ntcnow.ca new website is now live; purpose is to give info to people wanting to know more about the Cluster ,linked to each congregation's websites ; Facebook connection as well for sharing info about special events
   - Pulpit exchange in January, combined Cluster Council conversation as well

Paul and Sarah Update (continued)

Sarah's update

- confirmation wrapping up – October 6^{the} is the confirmation at ESG for four youth – 2 from ESG and 2 from Fairlawn
- Community Garden – summer staff finished, debriefed – Thomas from Flourish House going to work on the garden. Children making food to share after service using produce from the garden.
- Doing transition work with Kate, Ainsley and Samantha.
- Aiden – hired to work with upper level high school group, Morgan working with middle school group
- Flourish House – going very well. The young people are eager to start working with ESG. Open House will be scheduled for October.
- Flourish team have worked super hard to get everything off the ground

4. **Annual meeting planning** (Susan) – October 6th , 60 minutes
    - Focus will be year in review – highlights of different groups / programs, financial overview and looking ahead
    - It is a good opportunity to communicate on the significant progress on Flourish and plans looking ahead

5. **Lay ministry leadership** (Susan)
    - The September meeting is Peter's last Council meeting. During transition, John Blevins will be coordinating committee meetings, Reid will be the contact for Jennifer.
    - Nominating is working on finding a replacement Chair of Property (or two co chairs)

Business Items

1. **Minutes of the June and July Meetings**
   It was moved by Charlie Roden and seconded by Caren Cate that the Minutes of June and July meeting be approved. CARRIED

2. **Finance Update**
   Gord distributed 18/19 year end results and 19/20 budget summary and reviewed the highlights
   18/19 year end results
    - Highlights – Income: small surplus at year end, contributions up from budget due to year end appeal, rental income under budget due to City of Toronto leaving before anticipated, fundraising up due to rummage sale
    - Expenses – compensation down due to personnel changes thru the year, increased costs for concerts, organ repair, furnace replacement.
    - Transfers from funds – transfer 4% of investments into operations and management fee
    - Reliant on rental and investments to fund the church operations
    - Recognition of Charlie's work on the finances/ bookkeeping over the past year
    - Focus is now to make reporting easier and more accurate, new template developed by Kim McLaurin and new bookkeeper in place
    - Charlie reported that it was a challenging audit, a major accomplishment thanks to Charlie, Kim, Gord to get the statements ready. Kim has been working on a fund statement to clarify performance of each of the funds that will be added to the financial statements

It was moved by Charlie Roden and seconded by Gord Thompson that Council approves the 2018/2019 financial statements to be presented to the congregation at the 2019 AGM. Approved with 1 abstention

Gord reviewed 2019-20 budget

- Input was collected from all committees to prepare the budget for 2019/2020
- compensation up due to full staff complement and support for Sarah's mat leave
- general property maintenance + 4-5 specific projects
- admin costs up with bookkeeper in place for whole year
- anticipate a small surplus after transfers
- aspirational as far as contributions are concerned, as we received a major donation at year

It was moved by Gord Thompson and seconded by Peter Long that Council accepts the recommendation of Finance committee to approve the budget and that it be presented to the congregation at the AGM. CARRIED

3. **M&P Update**
    - Implemented plan for Sarah's coverage; hired many contractors
    - Edgar has been off since mid-July; has applied for the United Church's restorative care program; communication is ongoing with the insurance provider.
    - Work is underway to provide coverage. Alvarro has been very helpful to provide additional coverage.

Closing Prayer – Peter

Next Meetings

- Annual Congregational Meeting October 6th after Church
- Coffee Hour, October 20th
- Governing Council, October 22nd, 7-9pm

_____ _____

Chair Susan Moore Secretary – Maggie Wilkinson

CMWG October 22,2019. M@L

We had our meeting on September 30th.

We discussed upcoming events and activities.

Lita who works in the Nursery has worked at ESG for twenty years.

It was decided we would present her with flowers on pageant day in recognition of her service.

Kate is doing a fantastic job!!

Caren Cate

YWMG. October 22,2019. M@L

We discussed confirmation and the Youth Scholarship. Also brainstormed different activities for the middle and youth groups.

The older youth are very receptive to Aiden and the middle group are enjoying Morgan

Bonnie Joynt suggested a presentation re Flourish at our next meeting.

Caren Cate

Flourish Update

Congregational Communication – we will hold sessions like the one we held last council meeting after church on Nov 3rd and the evening of Thursday November 14th at 7 to discuss our research findings, strategic positioning and next steps. We will be open to all reactions and suggestions.

Flourish Monthly Newsletters – Alan Walker and Lisa Elder have taken on the task of writing a flourish update on a monthly basis to keep the congregation informed more frequently.

Programming – the team is in the final stages of financially committing to a proposal requesting $8,000 that will conduct primary and secondary research to determine how we may revitalize the lower west wing to support our mission and generate some revenue. In addition, an Edge grant of $5,000 has been applied for to support this work as the total proposal cost at this stage is $13,000. The basic idea is to determine if it is viable for the space to be used as a co-working or community hub location for people who have a business idea or an already going concern business that makes a social/community impact; it could also be a spiritual wellness space or something completely different depending on the recommendations coming from the research.

Committee Brainstorming or Dreaming – During Mid November the committee will meet to develop a list of other programming or community engagement ideas to consider based on our research findings and what others are doing in other areas of the city.

Nov 11 – we are meeting with Family Ministry that day to begin our discussions with ESG committees so that they may develop their own programming ideas to support the Gateway to Goodness strategic theme.

We will learn from that meeting and plan to meet with other committees in the next few weeks/months given scheduling restrictions. **hold a session similar to the one we held last council meeting**
Marketing Strategy – we are compiling names of firms that work in the non-profit, social innovation marketing space. We need to discuss as a team and get additional input from ESG staffers and our own marketing folks like Deb Mackenzie so that we have a comprehensive and intelligent marketing RFP to tender.
Staffing Transition – Given Sarah is now on maternity leave it will take the committee a bit to ramp up with Sam and Ainsley, but they are a vital part of our team moving forward and early input from them has been valuable.

As always, we are open to your thoughts and suggestions.

The Flourish Team