

**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)
July 22, 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, Peter Wilkins, Peter Long

Rob opened the meeting with prayer.

Priorities

Fiscal 19/20

Gord and Charlie presented the ESG 2019/2020 financial position reporting that because of the generous donations from the members the year ended well. Because the rental income was lower than expected due to the covid-19 temporary shut-down our total revenues were lower than expected. The expenses were held lower than budget so we ended the year in a positive position. Susan thanked the financial team for their incredibly hard work and long hours preparing the financial reports.

2. Budget 20/21

After some discussion it was reported that the final budget would be presented at an August meeting.

3. Property projects

Investigation into Building Automation and leaking in the storage room continues.

John and Peter Long (who joined the meeting for this portion of the meeting) presented the plans to replace the sound system. Following a discussion 4 motions were made:

1. Basic System

Moved by John Blevins and seconded by Heather Parker to engage Aligned Vision Group to replace part of the existing ESG Sound System: specifying the Main Amplifiers, the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) and the Sound Board. Total cost of the project not to exceed \$26,500 with funding provided from the Property Maintenance Fund the Operating Reserve Fund of other sources of capital as determined by the Governing Council. **CARRIED**

2. Wireless Microphones

Moved by John Blevins and seconded by Maggie Wilkinson to engage Aligned Vision Group to replace the existing wireless microphones (which will soon be rendered obsolete due to frequency changes) with six Wireless Microphones and their associated receivers and antennae. Total cost of the project not to exceed \$13,400 with funding provided from the Property Maintenance Fund the Operating Reserve Fund of other sources of capital as determined by the Governing Council. **CARRIED**

3. Hearing Assist Devices

Moved by John Blevins and seconded by Donna MacCandlish to engage Aligned Vision Group to replace the existing Hearing Assist System with one that uses current technology. Total cost of the project not to exceed \$8,000 with funding provided from the Property Maintenance Fund, the Operating Reserve Fund of other sources of capital as determined by the Governing Council. **CARRIED**

4. Video Projector

Moved by John Blevins and seconded by Caren Cate to engage Aligned Vision Group to replace the existing video projector with one using laser technology. Total cost of the project not to exceed \$9,500 with funding provided from the Property Reserve Fund or other sources of capital as determined by the Governing Council. **CARRIED**

Our thanks to John and Peter for their extensive work on preparing for this presentation.

Reopening Plans

Susan outlined the reopening plans as they continue to develop. Services will begin streaming on September 6 and will open on September 27. Kathleen Hull presented the policy for Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering within Eglinton St. George's United Church. It was moved by Kathleen Hull and seconded by Heather Parker that the policy be approved with the amendment of the addition of 'members' to the list of "all staff, *members*, visitors and customers". **CARRIED**

Outreach

Maggie outlined the new initiatives of the Outreach Program which includes a "little free pantry", the good food box and Kit Assembly.

Business Items

Minutes: It was moved by Marilyn Blair and seconded by Heather Parker that the minutes of June 16 be approved. **CARRIED**

Paul closed the meeting with prayer.

Susan Moore – Chair

Marilyn Blair - Secretary

Reports

Outreach Committee Report: July 22, 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, hoping to possibly begin with activities in the new year.

Peace with Justice

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

Social Justice Advocacy

Other churches such as Fairlawn United and Lawrence Park Community Church have established a link on their website to encourage letter writing by congregation members on various issues central to social justice in Toronto, such as food security and housing. Other issues such as promoting anti-racism may be added in time. The Outreach Committee is considering adding such a link to our website with updates and stories included in the weekly email. The website would allow access to sample letters, politician addresses, and suggestions for letter writing to make it as simple as possible for those who would like to get more involved.

Thursday Drop in Program

The Drop In program has been suspended due to COVID 19. Connie Roden and Maggie along with the committee will be making some plans for the fall as alternatives to this program. These activities / projects would include physical distancing for safety and smaller numbers of volunteers gathering at the church. Ideas include creating bag lunches, putting together survival / health / transition kits, and a little free pantry (more on that below). We continue to gather contact information from guests as they contact us through the church voicemail, and we hope to identify a group of people we can assist in other ways and develop a closer relationship.

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. The Blyth OOTC Board will soon be arranging a meeting for the Board to chat about what we do know and challenges.

Good Food Box Program

The Good Food Box program was able to donate a total of ___ boxes of fresh produce to people in need this year, including our refugee families. The program is running once in July and once

in August as there was enough demand to keep going over the summer. We plan to expand this program in the fall, perhaps running twice a month, and hope to be able to supply some of our guests from the Thursday Drop In program with a food box instead of grocery store vouchers. The response from those guests who have received boxes over the past few months has been very enthusiastic – they much prefer produce to tinned food.

Also, Foodshare is now offering new products such as various breads that are popular with some of our customers.

DISMAS

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

Early in July, ESG was able to donate a further \$1000 to each of The Massey Centre, Fred Victor COVID Fund, Street Health and Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM), for a total of \$10,000 of aid from the Pandemic Support campaign. Any remaining funds that come in will be used to help fund projects in the fall to support agencies serving people most affected by the pandemic in shelters and on the street. Thank you notes are being sent to all who donated for whom we have contact information.

Little Free Pantry

One new project that we would like to try at ESG in the fall to help serve those in need in the community and beyond is a Little Free Pantry.

This is a movement that was initiated in the US, growing out of the Little Free Library concept. The benefit of this could be twofold. We could be starting a small movement that will potentially welcome community support but also will still involve members of our congregation that are invested in continuing to support our drop in guests in some way. The Little Free Pantry would allow the congregation to still donate goods to the food box inside the church and also allow our (Thursday) volunteers the opportunity to fill the Pantry each week depending on need etc. The logistics of placement and size will be worked out with the Property Committee but Outreach feels strongly that this could be a good fit. Connie has a very good friend who, with approval, she will approach to make the food pantry for us.

<http://www.littlefreepantry.org> /
<https://www.instagram.com/p/CBgaVGnpRa0/?igshid=19b3rjs7i4jpv>

Mandatory Use of Mask or Face Covering within Eglinton St. George's United Church

Beginning July 7, 2020, all staff, visitors and customers are required to wear a mask or face covering upon entering and remaining within Eglinton St. George's United Church (ESG). The mask or face covering must cover the nose, mouth and chin.

Temporary removal of the mask is permitted where necessary for the purposes of receiving services, or while actively engaging in an athletic or fitness activity.

The following persons are exempted from requiring a mask or face covering and will not be required to provide proof of such exemption:

- Children under two years of age.
- Persons with an underlying medical condition which inhibits their ability to wear a mask or face covering.
- Persons who are unable to place, remove, or use a mask or face covering without assistance.
- Employees and operators of the Establishment, in a designated area not for public access, or within or behind a physical barrier. When staff are meeting with non-staff, all parties must wear a mask.
- Persons who are reasonably accommodated by not wearing a mask or face covering under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

ESG Staff will respectfully remind anyone entering ESG of the requirement to wear a face mask or covering while in the building.

If you are exempt, please advise staff that you are exempt. You will not be denied entry or asked to provide information to support your exemption.

A disposable face mask will be provided to those who arrive at ESG without one.

Questions about this policy can be directed to info@esgunited.org.

For more information visit <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-reduce-virus-spread/?accordion=face-masks-coverings>

This policy has been created in compliance with the [City of Toronto By-Law 541-2020](#).