

EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)

April 20 2021

Present: John Blevins, Caren Cate, Rev. Sarah Chapman, Hugh DesBrisay, Kathleen Hull, Rev. Paul Hutchison, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Marilyn Piotrowski, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson, Doug McWhirter, Heather Parker, Peter Wilkins, Marion Axmith, Rob Crabtree.

Guests: Alan Walker.

Regrets: Charlie Roden.

Doug opened the meeting with prayer.

Marion Axmith has agreed to take over the role of Member at Large for Outreach, welcome Marion!

Priorities

Project Flourish – (Sarah, Alan)

Sarah found out that, although The Embracing the Spirit grant was expected to be used within a year, more time can be taken and money used where needed rather than as first requested. Flourish team and house members have been looking at possible improvements to backyard space and how it can be used for weekly gatherings in summer, moving indoor gatherings such as Soup Wednesday outdoors. Hope to connect virtually with other communities for Soup Wednesdays, Vespers, Love Alive. Group has been working with Patti on Values and Mary Thomson on Mental Health. May be money left over but can apply again in October - \$25k each year for 3 years.

Thanks to John for arranging removal of tractor. Backyard improvements can create important ties with young people in community – possibilities in discussion of firepit, patio, extension of community garden. Three full time students approved for summer; five good applicants so hours may be distributed optimally. Budget is \$4k, possible summer camp within Go project and sharing within cluster.

Two more percolating sessions on Food Ministry planned for young people and young families then results will be surveyed. Jennifer has been working with Lee Rennick of Six Trends, Inc creating templates for FaceBook followed by Instagram; slightly ahead of schedule.

COVID 19 Response update (Maggie, Kathleen)

Entrance to building has been scaled back according to latest restrictions, only custodians allowed inside. There was discussion about how best to support a staff member who is ill: Gord will take responsibility for financial support, and ESG will assist if needed for application to government assistance programs.

Public Health was contacted by a neighbour of ESG re Covenant Baptist members gathering outside. However this was before latest restrictions came into force. An Inspector was expected to visit to review processes and safeguards.

Lenten Unglamorous Survey (Paul, Maggie)

A survey has been created re Unglamorous series with support from Heather Beamish on questions; expected to take 10-15 mins to complete with option of a follow-up phone call. Will be offered to Cluster.

21/22 Budget (Gord, Maggie)

Kim has sent out budget templates to all areas. One combined budget per committee requested and suggestion to start as soon as possible. Maggie sent out a PowerPoint deck to leaders as guidance on ESG priorities and Covid assumptions. (Copy attached).

Responses required for Planning meetings to be held in mid-May.

Basement Lift project update (Susan, Doug)

Application to Trillium Foundation was not approved. Have gone back to them for feedback on reasons for this decision - could take a couple of weeks. Doug has contacted 3 sub-contractors asking them to keep quotes open.

Cluster Update (Paul, Susan)

- Dewi Sant to announce shortlist of two after their Board meeting on April 26th. Glebe Road congregation have asked Paul for help with their M & P challenges e.g. are there opportunities for operational sharing of resources. Heather will speak to Glebe rep.

Nine of ten congregations are participating in Earth Day exercise - Earth Bingo.

Business Items

Minutes of March 23rd meeting:

Moved by Maggie Wilkinson and seconded by Caren Cate that the minutes of March 2021 meeting be accepted as written. CARRIED

Finance (Gord)

\$60k per month needed to meet the budget. Expenses close to budget by year end. Overall positive variance now due to wage subsidy but budget deficit will be higher than expected, One more month of wage subsidy amounts as they only run until June. Stewardship Appeal to go out in May.

Ministers' Update (Paul, Sarah)

Planning underway for Covid-friendly community gardening. Children and Youth programs using common themes e.g. mosaics. Families are turning to ESG programs for nourishment during Covid. LoveAlive on April 25th with guest singer.

Paul - planning for "One Another" summer series with 3 cluster preachers & summer musicians, "A Bigger Table" in September for 3 weeks and "All Things Reconsidered" for Epiphany. Google Analytics will be used to review results of social media responses.

M & P (Heather)

Don's contract runs out in June. Recommendation from committee to extend. Heather moved to extend Don's contract, seconded by Gord, Approved.

Property (John)

Ongoing issue with very high temperature in North Studio. Likely changed by custodians. If this continues, password will be changed.

Outreach (Marion)

St Luke's Out Of The Cold program asked for support - they are providing 500 meals per week. Committee will provide \$1,000. Request from Massey Centre for new campaign - Dollars for Diapers.

Closing prayer - Paul

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Notes for Council Meeting of April 20th, 2021

Committee News and Activities

- The final Evensong service is on Thursday, May 13.
- The next Love aLIVE, dinner church is on Sunday, April 25 at 5 pm with special guest, folksinger, songwriter and educator, Kate Reid. "Kate is an exceptional creator and writer of songs who identifies as Queer. Pronouns: she/they. A whip smart wordsmith, Kate has a knack for candid story-telling and songwriting that is charged with humour and social-political commentary. Best of all, you don't have to be queer to get it. What makes Kate stand out from other confessional writers is that they turn personal experience and insight into songs that strike a universal chord with their listeners."
- There is a final dinner church service in June.
- The Season of Easter series got underway with God the Weaver (April 11). Mary Thomson, the Champion for this service provided the opening prayer and introduced the guest textile artist, Temma Gentles, who was represented by a short documentary film the international "Torah Stitch by Stitch Project" she initiated.
- This past Sunday, the series continued with God the Potter (April 18). Jim Black, the Champion for this service provided the opening prayer and introduced Joan Spears and Dana Clemens who provided a video reflection about their work as potters. According to Jim Black who worked with Joan and Dana in producing the reflections/video, 'At the heart of potting, it would seem, is vision, patience, and acceptance - overlaid by a sense of community.'
- The remaining services in the series: God the Gardener (April 25 – Earth Day Service), God the Quilter (May 2), God the Mosaic Artist (May 9) and God the Graffiti Artist (May 16)
- Committee met on Thursday, April 8 to provide feedback about the Advent and Easter services and to hear updates from worship team members regarding plans for the upcoming services for the Season of Easter series.
- Committee discussed plans for Summer Worship and the 2020-2021 Worship plans and themes.

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.

Property Report for April 20th 2021 ESG Council meeting

Current Projects

Building Automation System noticed very high temperature settings (26.5 ° C) in the North and South studios at 9:30 PM while the building is unoccupied. Looking into who may have changed the settings and why.

Faithful Footprints Grant. Received \$29,000 from United Church of Canada Faithful footprints retro-fit program.

Sound system installation and testing completed. Some feed back and echo issues raised by the Rev Hutchison and resolved at an on-site meeting with four members of property Committee.

Storage Room Drains have been cleared and a storage tank with pump installed to catch any water leaking into the room, which is then pumped to the driveway on Craighurst. During recent rains the fix worked well, no flooding in the area. Still monitoring the system while a permanent solution is developed.

Hearing Assist system testing successfully completed. The signal delay issue has been resolved.

AV/IT task Group on going. A network access issue was raised and resolved (giving access to outside marketing consultants).

Snow blower & Tractor The Kubota snow blower/plough and tractor were removed from Craighurst property. It was sent to E. Larkin Equipment in Gormley on consignment. When sold ESG will get 80% of the sale less cartage and refurbishing fees.

Planning for up coming projects

Preparing the 2021-2022 Property budget by identifying potential projects and obtaining estimates.

Outreach Committee Report: April 20th 2021

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice continues monthly meetings on zoom to discuss concerns regarding human rights, peace and justice. Following the April business meeting, a program will be presented by Gigi Mills and Nora Wilson on the topic of "Twenty-One Things You May Not Know about the Indian Act."

Out of the Cold

Following a successful mini-project in March, which supplied banana bread to those living on the street, the program remains on hold until Public Health officials decide when it is safe for larger groups to gather once again.

Good Food Box Program

For this year, the program continues to run twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG. In April, we will give out 23 boxes of produce to those in need. Anyone interested in purchasing a Good Food Box or donating a box to our outreach participants, please contact Heather Parker.

DISMAS

We continue to support 2 Dismas members with food boxes on a monthly basis. Dismas continues to meet regularly on Zoom.

Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry continues to be used daily by those in need, as well as many members of the community donating items. In April, pantry supplies will continue to be delivered and sorted at Margery Roden's house. In May, pantry supplies will be delivered once again to ESG and sorted by Last Minutes volunteers. ESG custodians have agreed to stock the Pantry three days a week and Last Minutes will stock it the other four days. We will widen our search for volunteers to help stock the Pantry over the Summer which will give our regular volunteers a much needed break.

Thanks to Judi Healy for arranging with the Bayview Valu-mart Grocer to donate staples for the Pantry.

Fruit for Na-Me-Res Shelter

Donna Lang continues to regularly take fruit donated by a local Grocer to the Na-Me-Res, a shelter for indigenous men. Donna is looking for a physically capable volunteer to take the produce to the Shelter once a week from May 1 to Sept. 1.

NT Cluster Work

Welcome Baskets Project – the Cluster has taken on this project to supply 15-20 baskets per month to Streets to Homes, an organization run by the city to help people transitioning from shelters and encampments to permanent housing.

Delivery of 20 Welcome Baskets has been delayed due to a COVID outbreak at the Roehampton Hotel Shelter. Hopefully the Baskets will be delivered in early May. Thanks to all the families who have donated items for the Baskets and to those who have made financial donations.

Roehampton Hotel Shelter - A Community Liaison Committee (CLC) includes members from Manor Road and Lawrence Park churches on behalf of the cluster. A group of representatives from the Cluster and a few beyond the cluster are meeting on Zoom to determine ways in which churches can assist the shelter residents. Following a March meeting to discuss possible group actions to educate our congregations about poverty, housing, and addiction issues in the coming months, a virtual Vigil was held on April 8 on the topic of Liveable Basic Income. **We are also looking to secure a date in late April/early May for a panel discussion** related to homelessness and addiction, particularly the need for Overdose Prevention Sites in the shelter system.

To celebrate Easter, we were part of a NT Cluster card campaign that gave each shelter resident a cheerful Easter card, with personal words of encouragement from ESG volunteers, along with some chocolates.

Food Outreach at Ramadan - ESG has joined other Churches in the Cluster to help fund an initiative taking place in the Thorncliffe Park community during the month of Ramadan. ESG has

donated \$1,000 to the Canadian Community Services Organization to help fund food boxes for the poorest families.

ESG Outreach Partners – ESG has joined with other Churches to organize a “Diaper Drive” for the May Mother’s Day weekend at The Massey Centre.

The Massey Centre supports young mothers with prenatal and postnatal care, learning how to care for their babies while completing their education and developing the skills needed to build a successful life and relationship with their babies.

MEA
4/13/21