

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

March 23rd, 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.

Guests: Christine Lawson, Alan Walker, Marion Axmith.

Regrets: Charlie Roden, Rob Crabtree.

Christine opened the meeting with prayer.

Marion Axmith is observing tonight towards taking over the role of Member at Large for Outreach.

Priorities

Project Flourish – Sarah, Alan.

Two Zoom sessions have been booked on Mar 24th with the Ambassadors team to review the Food Ministry proposal. Breakout sessions will look to generating ideas, quick wins etc. After Easter, a similar exercise is planned for young people and families.

Sixtrends Communication firm has been hired to work on a social media strategy for the April to December period. Now gathering information on current communication avenues.

Flourish House has three residents again and one ad hoc member. They had a couple of visioning/dreaming sessions looking at what the community wants. Patti will lead a values-based workshop with them.

Sarah will provide more info next month on where we stand re \$25k UCC Emerging Spirit grant.

COVID 19 Response update (Maggie, Kathleen)

Meeting held last week to look at impact of new rules, vaccinations, variants etc on the period to Summer then on to Fall. Decision is to continue with recordings for now, meet again in April. Hope is for live streaming in Fall with building open for weddings, funerals with limited numbers if ministerial staff agree. Maggie & Kathleen to draft a message for the newsletter to keep congregation up-to-date.

Dewi Sant (Susan, Paul)

Dewi Sant have asked for 3 years of annual reports and audited statements. Next steps not known. Paul's update from Liz McKenzie is that ESG is one of four locations being reviewed. Thinking is that it is premature to inform congregation of this possibility. Susan will ask Peter Lloyd-Jones for their key milestones.

Trillium Grant (Susan, Doug)

Application sent in December, decision expected by Mar 26th. Business case shows 2 year payback from lift to basement. If grant not successful, a revised business case will be prepared.

21/22 Budget (Gord)

March results will be gathered by 2nd week of April then budget can be prepared. Kim will issue a template to committees by 4th week in April but committees should start discussions now recognizing there will be unknowns. Susan shared last year's template to allow planning to start now. Committees should consider implications of Covid situation.

Finance would like one combined budget per committee, e.g. Worship, Sacraments & Music combined. Review meeting to be held mid to end of May. Assumption that Flourish will be funded by growth eventually but by grants for now.

Town Hall (Susan)

Susan proposed May 30th for next Town Hall. Will include financial update, year end appeal for week after Town Hall, Summer and Fall program update, property upgrades update.

Business Items

Minutes of February meeting:

Moved by Donna MacCandlish and seconded by Maggie Wilkinson that the minutes of February 23rd, 2021 meeting be accepted as written. CARRIED

Finance (Gord)

\$58k per month needed to meet the budget. Rental \$15.7 under budget, all revenue \$43.8 under budget. Expenses close to budget by year end. Overall positive variance now due to wage subsidy but budget deficit will be higher than expected, subsidy amounts are declining and only run until June.

Ministers' Update (Paul, Sarah)

Paul - "Unglamorous" first weeks finished, looking at "how do we go into in-depth group conversation". Deer Park used three in study sessions, Dewi Sant used one service. Very unusual approach for United Church. Some \$s expected from Cluster. Balance between Appreciation vs Appropriation very important. Children's program was excellent. Possibility of Green initiative within Cluster - Earth Day Bingo. Paul is working on next year's content.

Sarah - Extinguishing Lenten candles continuing to Easter. Pageant planned for Palm Sunday. Youth to do Call to Worship and Prayers of the People in a future service. Maundy service on Thursday, LoveAlive on Sunday with emphasis on Holy Week. Kate working on age-appropriate activities for Easter. Sarah working with Jennifer to consolidate mailing lists to improve efficiency of communications.

Nominating (Donna)

Percolating sessions set up to examine Food Ministry proposal, organized by Patti Thomson.

Property (John)

Faithful Footprints work successfully completed, should be receiving funds from grant soon.

Outreach (Maggie)

Welcome Baskets will be distributed soon, ESG contributed 20 baskets with 12 already assembled.

Closing prayer - Sarah

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski

Council Meeting March 23rd 2021 via Zoom

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Notes for Council Meeting of March 23, 2021

Committee News and Activities

- The next Evensong service is on Maundy Thursday, April 1.
- Palm fronds were laid out on the front steps of the church on Monday for anyone who would like them for the Palm Sunday service on March 28. This was done last year.
- All of the Easter services will be offered via worshipbyphone.

- The next Love aLIVE, dinner church is on Sunday, March 28 at 5 pm with special guest, singer-songwriter Matt Epp.

- The 5-part Lenten Series: Unglamorous: A 5-week starter course on race inequality from a Christian Framework finished this past Sunday, March 21. Heather Beamish the course facilitator offered the final reflection for the Sunday service. This was followed by an online panel conversation in the evening: Come to Jesus Meeting: A Panel Conversation with POC faith leaders.

- Next WSMC committee meeting is on Thursday, April 8 to finalize plans for the Season of Easter series – Artistry of God: God the Weaver (April 11), God the Potter (April 18), 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), plans for Summer Worship and the 2020-2021 Worship plans and themes.

Nominating Committee

Leadership Development / Succession Planning:

Marion Axmith - Guest

We are pleased to welcome Marion Axmith, as a guest, to our Council meeting. Marion is considering joining us to fill the M@L Outreach role. By way of background, Marion has spent 30 years in professional roles within the Plastics/Chemicals industry. She retired from the Canadian Plastics Association in 2013, worked subsequently as a consultant to the industry, and fully retired in 2018. Supplementing her professional career, she has held volunteer leadership roles in various associations, among them the Belmont House where she served as Auxiliary Outreach Chair. Marion is currently actively supporting the Little Free Pantry, has previously been involved with Drop-in Thursdays and is an active “Last Minutes” member. Thank you, Connie Roden, for identifying Marion as a candidate for this role.

Percolating Sessions:

Sarah presented her ‘going forward’ vision for our Growth ministry at our last Governing Council meeting. As you know, it draws on her abundance of creative thinking as well as what was gleaned from the Project Flourish work undertaken over the last two years.

As with previously delivered “Percolating Sessions” (June 2020), then organized to both inform and seek input on the evolving strategy, we are eager to update folks on where we are at and

solicit feedback. We are also eager to “engage” folks in stepping up to contribute to future programming – both through their advocacy and through their help bringing programs to life.

We have arranged to hold these two-hour sessions on March 24th (morning and afternoon). The sessions will be conducted via ZOOM. Patti Thompson will be our Master Facilitator with Arlene Duncan, Maggie Wilkinson, Caren Cate, Peter Wilkinson, Ken Smee and Christine Lawson acting as team facilitators – all folks who have acted as our Ambassador Champions. Patti will be conducting a facilitator preparatory session prior to the actual sessions.

We have reached out to 32 potential participants. Many of them are folks who have been involved as Ambassadors.

Lay Leadership List:

We are in the process of developing a “lay leadership list” profiling individuals who are leading various committees, groups and initiatives across ESG – their roles/contributions, past and present, as well as their experiences and interests. We believe this will be useful to both our Nominating Committee and Ministry Leadership when considering leadership/succession planning. It can also be leveraged for recognition opportunities.

Property Report for February 23rd 2021 ESG Council meeting

Current Projects

LED Lighting. Completed. Expect to make final submission to IESO in 3 weeks for about \$15,500. The project went over budget by \$9,000 due to some discovery items such as \$4,000 to replace wall sconces for which there were no equivalent LED lights. The overage has been covered by donations.

Building Automation System for the heating and cooling completed and ESG has received the \$5,100 from the IESO which covered half the cost, the balance was covered by the Faithful Footprints grant.

Faithful Footprints Grant. We have been approved for the payment of the \$30,000 grant (less a \$1000 hold back for one year while energy use is monitored). Should receive the money in 2 weeks.

Sound system installation and testing in the final stages. Scheduled for after Easter.

Storage Room roof shoring and repairs. Temporary shoring in place Estimate \$9,000

Hearing Assist system is operational but need to complete testing with hearing aid users and prepare an information card on log-in procedure and downloading of the associated application to smart phones.

AV/IT task Group on going

Planning for up coming projects

Install Network access points for gym and chancel for hearing assist program. Estimate \$2,000 to #3,000 for 2 or 3 access points with some hook up costs with Starport

Repair the Gym west wall window wells to prevent further water ingress. Estimate \$10,000

Plan for two furnace replacements. Estimate \$16,000
Elevator down to the Gym. Estimate \$130,000 total [\$30K for lift, installed. \$80K for structural prep work and \$20K for nursery repairs].
Complete phase II of the driveway courtyard project. Estimate \$80,000
Gym renovations
Gym kitchen

Outreach Committee Report: Feb 23, 2021

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice continues monthly meetings on zoom. Next meeting March 25th.
Amnesty International letter writing update and an appeal was in the weekly email on Thursday March 11th.

Out of the Cold

The Banana Bread Brigade (some of our Out of the Cold volunteers) supplied 100 portions of banana bread on March 11th and again March 18th for distribution to people living on the street. The dessert was packaged in baggies labeled "Banana Bread Made with love by the Banana Brigade" + the ESG logo. This was a one-time outreach mini-project that could potentially develop into something larger if the need is identified.

Good Food Box Program

The program continues to run twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG for this year. In March we will give out 23 boxes of produce to those in need. Many thanks to the team of delivery drivers: Judi Healy, Kim MacLaurin, Pam Henderson, Pat Fraser and Leslie Morris. And special thanks to Heather Parker, who took on the role of GFB Organizer beginning this month!

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 was featured in the Lawrence Park Residents Organization newsletter this month. We hope this spotlight on the pantry results in community support of the program. The pantry continues to be used frequently by those in need as well as community members donating items. There was a concern reported by a community member about people scooping the entire contents of the pantry rather than just taking

what they need. Connie has addressed this concern with the individual and added some signage encouraging people accessing the pantry to take just what they need and to leave something for the next person. Outreach and the Last Minutes group will continue to monitor the status of the pantry's use.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group

The original discussion group continues to meet regularly every second Thursday. We are enjoying the Lenten Series, Un-Glamorous, and are joining groups such as Community of Care and book study groups to share learning.

Fruit for Na Me Res

Donna Lang continues to regularly take fruit donated by a local grocer to the Na-Me-Res, a shelter for indigenous men. The shelter is grateful for the fresh produce and Donna is able to maintain a much-appreciated connection there between the shelter and ESG.

Syrian Refugee Steering Group

The amount owed on Oussama Rajab's airfare to Immigration Canada has been paid. The remaining balance will be kept to put towards supporting the education of the Rajab youth when they graduate from their programs. More fundraising will likely take place at that time and a status report will be made by the group once Kristen and Kate have met with the families.

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.

ESG will supply 15- 20 baskets for the month of April. Already 10 families have signed up to fill a basket and more are bringing contributions of gently used items and financial donations to support the project. We look forward to filling the baskets in March and delivering the week after Easter. The garage is filling up with lots of donations, and we were able to take a load of bulky items (duvets, sheets, pillows) to Roehampton Hotel Shelter on March 16 for their use.

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. The group met on March 11th to discuss possible group actions to educate our congregations about poverty, housing, and addiction issues in the coming months. **We are now looking to secure a**

date in April for a panel discussion related to homelessness and addiction, particularly the need for Overdose Prevention Sites in the shelter system.

To celebrate Easter, we are part of a NT Cluster card campaign that will give each shelter resident a cheerful Easter card with personal words of encouragement along with some chocolates. These will be distributed by shelter staff on Easter Sunday. Anyone who'd like to write a personal greeting please get in touch with Maggie asap.