

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

Nov 16, 2021

Present: Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Rev. Sarah Chapman, Caren Cate, Charlie Roden, Donna MacCandlish, Doug McWhirter, Heather Parker, John Blevins, Marion Axmith, Peter Wilkins, Susan Moore, Maggie Wilkinson, Marilyn Piotrowski, Cathy Nolan.

Regrets: Christine Lawson, Gord Thompson

Peter opened the meeting with prayer.

Priorities

Strategic Goals Revisited – Extravagant Welcome

Dewi Sant Proposal Update (Susan)

2021/22 Stewardship Update (Cathy)

December meeting format.

Strategic Goals Revisited – # 3 Extravagant Welcome (Maggie)

These goals should be reviewed regularly to keep them in mind and to check our progress against them. Attendees broke into small groups to discuss then shared their thoughts:

Progress to date:

- Ambassador calling program
- Community of Care – Weds
- We Are Not Alone – Monthly
- Small group activities –e.g. Last Minutes, New Perspectives

Future suggestions:

- Special welcome for newcomers and introduce them to one of the ministers after service.
- Name tags for all Sunday morning attendees
- Reaching out to members who may have lost touch with ESG
- Can Facebook be used to connect with non-members viewing services?

2021/22 Stewardship Update (Cathy)

A total of 413 letters (143 with personalized notes) have been prepared and will be sent out by Nov 19th. Of the total, 113 donate through PAR (this should be encouraged to balance out contributions throughout the year) and 189 donate but do not pledge. We receive \$286k every

year from PAR members and ~\$113k from non pledges but these are both below budget for calendar year.

Returns will be tracked starting week of Nov 21st

Dewi Sant Proposal Update (Susan)

The Dewi Sant Transition Team has recommended going ahead with amalgamation discussions with Timothy Eaton Memorial United Church, pending results of a vote at their Nov 28th Congregational meeting. We have requested a follow-up meeting to hear their thinking and feedback on ESG to help us with future amalgamation conversations. This result is confidential until after Nov 28th after which the Dewi Sant decision can be communicated to the congregation by email and in church.

Paul - While this result is disappointing, Dewi Sant considers TEMC a better fit. This was a great opportunity for ESG and a large amount of work.

Peter - Credit goes to Susan, Jennifer & Paul for the massive effort put into this process. Choosing two churches was a unique approach within the United Church. Shining Waters Region has requested our feedback on the process.

December meeting format -(Maggie)

Should we try for an in-person meeting? Given the uncertainty around COVID safety, we will meet online next month on zoom.

Shining Waters Council meeting update (Peter)

There was a virtual annual meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council on Nov 13th with 160 representatives. Eleven proposals were discussed, details can be found on the Shining Waters website:

[Fall 2021 Regional Meeting - Shining Waters \(shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca\)](https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca)

One important point for ESG to note is the increase in assessments in the future which would add up to \$20k to the current amount.

Business Items

Minutes of Oct 19th and Nov 2nd meetings (Marilyn)

Approval of minutes of Oct 19th meeting proposed by Marilyn, seconded by Charlie.

CARRIED

Approval of minutes of Nov 2nd meeting proposed by Marilyn, seconded by Susan.

CARRIED

Finance (Charlie)

Givings are down significantly and revenues overall down \$17k year-to-date. Expenses below budget - \$9.6k for month, \$27k for YTD so overall figures are close to YTD budget of overall operating loss of \$76,084. Irene continues to work from Russia.

Paul and Sarah Update

Paul – time spent on Dewi Sant proposal and stewardship campaign. Christmas plans are firmed up, recording times booked for Christmas Day and Boxing Day services. Cluster engagement continues. Working with Family Ministry changes. Christine reports that greeters are needed for 5pm Christmas Eve service.

Sarah - noted that Christmas Eve service is inter-generational this year. The Christmas pageant will be filmed outside on Nov 20th; monthly hot chocolate gatherings continue. Brittany Hudson will be featured at next Love aLIVE on Nov 28th. Flourish House continues meeting every Wed with new people coming each week.

M & P (Heather)

We are looking to hire a lead caretaker in a similar role as before Covid – currently neither caretaker is in a supervisory position. The lead caretaker would report to Jennifer Torrens and the secondary caretaker would report to the lead caretaker. The goal is for the lead caretaker to take a more active role in supervising the day to day maintenance of the building. There would be no significant budget implications for this reorganizing of the caretaking roles. John and Jennifer are interviewing.

Technical support in the sound booth has been requested – reporting to Paul on Sunday mornings.

Property – (John)

Many thanks expressed to Doug for his contribution to the Lift install work – much appreciated.

Flourish – (Sarah)

Small column included in the newsletter re Food Ministry and Flourish update. Contract with Six Trends for social media guidance has ended early due to principals changing company direction. A job description will be prepared for social media support from Jan to June 2022, funded from Flourish budget. Six Trends have pre-scheduled posts and are committed to training new person. Peter raised possibility of this role being included in Shining Waters synergy. Going forward send any posts for social media to Jennifer Torrens.

Syrian Education Fund – (Marion)

Marion reported on the progress of fund-raising for the Syrian Education Fund. To date \$5.5k has been received with a further \$5k in committed funds.

Closing prayer - Sarah

Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski

MAP Goal Statement #3: Extravagant Welcome

I invite you to consider our strategic goal of Extravagant Welcome from the 2016 MAP process. We will be revisiting each of our three goals to take stock of how we are doing and how we might need to introduce new ways of reaching these goals, assuming they are still important and viable for ESG.

Please have a think about your areas of connection at the church and how Extravagant Welcome is now, and can be in the future, part of your strategy. We'll have some time to focus in on this goal at our Council meeting on the 19th. Thank you!

Maggie

FROM the MAP Process:

Vision (The Dream) *Welcoming and Belonging*

Mission (The What and Why)

What?

Beyond an initial welcome at the door of ESG, we want people to find a way to belong and engage in worship, activities, and leadership. We will explore ways to be more inviting of those beyond our doors and who are not presently part of our congregation.

Why?

- We want ESG to continue into the future with a new generation.
- We want ESG to offer a warm welcome and a place to belong.
- Christian values and spiritual nurture can support, inspire, and challenge a new generation to engage the world with peace, love, and social justice.

Objectives (How much of what will be accomplished by when)

- what are measurable ways that we will know we are being successful with our goal of Extravagant Welcome?

Strategies (How?)

- what strategies are we using now to bring about these objectives?
- are there any strategies we need to be leaning into more?
- are there any ways we could improve on our approach to this goal

CMWG November 16,2021

We had a very successful Halloween event. We are planning an

Advent and Christmas event this Sunday November 21st.

Our families are enjoying meeting once a month for different occasions. We are hoping this will be enough to keep them engaged.

Youth are continuing to meet outside. Also this has been successful.

Our cupboards are being delivered this week. (Very Exciting).

Kate Barb Long and I have sorted and reduced the amount of books in the Children's Library. The shelves we sourced are back ordered. Hopefully they will be available soon.

Caren Cate

Outreach Committee Report: November 16, 2021

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice continues monthly meetings on zoom to discuss concerns regarding human rights, peace and justice. There is no longer a Chair of this Group, with each meeting chaired by a different member. This group also arranges Amnesty International letter writing at ESG.

Good Food Box Program

In November 20 boxes will be delivered to clients. 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 (LFP)

The Little Free Pantry continues to be accessed daily. Along with ESG's daily contributions from Outreach, it appears that our community has responded well with contributions. A Food Drive was held recently where we received a modest amount of donations to bolster our supply. Our December bag fill-up will be supplied mostly from the goods we have accumulated.

Fruit for Na-Me-Res Shelter

Donna Lang continues to take fruit donated by a local Grocer to the Na-Me-Res Shelter for indigenous men, on a weekly basis.

NT Cluster Work – Welcome Baskets Project

ESG has fulfilled its "Welcome Baskets" commitment for 2021. Our baskets were beautiful & well received. We hope that by now they have been distributed and are in use. We will be in communication with our Cluster partners to determine goals and timelines for next year.

Out-of-the-Cold (OOTC) Program

Through Arlena Hebert we have learned that the OOTC program at Blythwood Church is still on hold. Discussions are being held on a possible program closer to our neighbourhood, similar to the program at St. Luke's, however, decisions have yet to be made on how to proceed.

Winter Coat and Accessories Collection

A drive will be held later this month to collect winter coats, scarves, hats, mitts and gloves. These items will then be delivered to both TUNM (Holy Trinity Site) and Fred Victor Mission for both the women's and men's shelters. New men's and women's socks generously donated by the Blair's will be combined with personal care items when the coats and accessories are distributed.

Collection dates will be:

Friday, November 26 4-6 pm

Saturday, November 27 4-6pm

Sunday, November 28 10:30 am Sunday Service

Children's Education Fund

Last month the Council approved the establishment of an Education Fund to help cover the costs of post-secondary tuition and related expenses for the 9 children of the two Syrian Families that ESG sponsored. The Education Fund has two objectives: 1) to encourage the children to complete post-secondary education and 2) upon graduation, to be debt-free when embarking on their careers in adult life. Both objectives position them well for independence and future success in Canada. As a result, fundraising has begun and regular articles have begun to appear in the weekly ESG Community News Bulletins.

MEA 11/12/21

Property Report to ESG Governing Council November 16, 2021

Audio/Video/IT task group

- * Preparing information for implementing remotely activated access control for the Lytton Hub door from off site.
- * Reviewing ESG's policy and database on IT user names and passwords in response to a request for password information.
- * Live streaming issues are almost resolved. There now appears to be a transmission issue with Vimeo and the ESG web page link.

Lift to gym

- * The Lift installation is complete, has passed inspection and is now licensed by the Technical Standards & Safety Association (TSSA). A draft set of operating instructions has been developed and the custodian has been instructed in its use.
- * There was a concern of isolating the gym air from the upper hallway and the Family Ministry area as part of ESG's Covid-19 measures. A plastic screen was being considered until it was noticed that there are a pair of doors in the hall that will isolate the gym and the antechamber at the upper station of the lift from the hallway.

Sanctuary ceiling

- * The sanctuary ceiling shows evidence of water leakage from the roof. Plans are being developed for inspection and any necessary repair of the slate roof.

Storage Room Ceiling Slab

- * Yet to receive budgetary estimates from "**engineeringlink**" for resolution of the storage room slab ceiling. There are two proposals under consideration; replace and repair. Both will involve the relocation of services which are in the planning stage.

Insurance Underwriter Risk assessment

- * The penultimate task on the risk assessment list has been completed with the installation of the damaged ceiling tiles in the hall outside the North Studio room..

Family Ministry projects

- * The cabinets and counters for the Family Ministry will be delivered this week and installed by Glen over the coming few days.
- * The Family Ministry team is proceeding with procuring new library shelving as previously authorized by Council.

Lytton Door Pedestal Repair

- * Mercon Construction has designed, fabricated and installed a robust structural support for the Hub pedestal, which had been damaged by vandals. (photograph attached)

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee
Notes for Council Meeting of November 16, 2021

Committee News and Activities

- In-person live streaming services continue with attendance on the rise.
- As of November 21st, all attendees will be asked to show proof of vaccination. Covid -19 protocols set by the ESG Covid-19 Response Team are being followed.
- A dedicated group of Greeters have been recruited to January 16th. There is still a need for more Greeters for the December 24th Christmas Eve service at 5:00 pm.
- Zoom Coffee Hour continues to follow the service at 11:30 am. The number of members attending coffee hour has decreased over the past few months. A decision on continuing coffee hour into the new year will be made at the end of November.
- A pre-filled Communion cup (Friendship Cup) is being tried out at upcoming Communion services on November 28th and January 2nd. A gluten free option consisting of a grape with a GF cracker will also be available.
- New Expressions Sundays:
 - November 21 - VC2 - Cello Duo
 - December 19 - Embodiment Trio and a possible string quartet (Covid pending).
- Worship themes to the end of 2021:
 - Comfort and Joy – Advent
 - November 28 – Advent 1 – Hope and Communion
 - December 5 – Advent 2 – Peace and Advent Gifts
 - December 12 – Advent 3 – Joy and Christmas Pageant; ESG Christmas Concert
 - December 16 – Evensong 3 – Christmas in a Minor Key
 - December 19 – Advent 4 – Love and Carol Service; LoveaLIVE Dinner Church 3
 - All is Well – Christmas
 - December 24 – Christmas Eve – inter generational service and live stream-service at 5:00 pm; will end with everyone singing a carol outside with glow sticks. Reposting of Pageant online.
 - December 25 – pre-recorded service; a small service similar to last year’s
 - December 26 – Boxing Day - pre-recorded service; possibly lessons and carol style
 - January 2 – Epiphany Sunday - live and livestream; Auld Lang Syne Communion
- The next LoveaLIVE online Dinner Church is November 21st at 5 pm.
- November’s Evensong service included music, readings, and prayers which helped to move members from the sobering reality of Remembrance Day, towards a passion for peace and hope for the world today. Rev. Don Parsons and Aidan Legault led the service, with rich music by Shawn Grenke, and contralto lead Ariane Meredith.

Other Updates

- The next WSM Committee meeting is December 1st via Zoom, and will include updates from Music and Next Generation and Growth as well as an update of Worship plans for Christmas. Our next meeting will be held in the new year.