

EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE 22ND ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
OCT 17TH, 2021
UNAPPROVED

Welcome

Doug McWhirter, Honourary Chair of the Congregation, welcomed everyone who joined the Zoom Annual Meeting. Peter Wilkins and Heather Parker assisting.

Recording Secretary: Marilyn Piotrowski

Over the past year, there have been three town hall meetings. These have been interactive information sessions which provided updates & developments in our church. However, this is the formal annual meeting of the congregation where reports are received, the past year reviewed and decisions made affecting the activities of the church over the coming year. A quorum was declared, and Doug called the meeting to order.

The Rev. Sarah Chapman opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

Voting Privileges

It was moved by Arlene Duncan and seconded by Mary Thomson that for the purpose of this meeting, everyone present, both members & adherents, have voting privileges. **CARRIED**

Minutes from Congregational Meetings

It was moved by Marilyn Blair and seconded by Bronwyn Best that we accept the Minutes of the October 18, 2020 Congregational Meeting. **CARRIED**

The Year that Was

Maggie Wilkinson, the incoming Chair of the ESG Governing Council, presented a review of the 2020/2021 year. The past year has been a challenge, but the ESG community gathered around our COVID Priorities of Comfort, Belonging and Intentional Survival and we came out of this COVID year stronger and more

dynamic. ESG's focus on **COMFORT** has brought comfort to our own community and beyond with various groups providing care and connection. The We Are Not Alone (WANA) Tuesday email was followed up by the Community of Care discussion on Wednesdays based on Worship themes. Thank you to Patti Thompson and Peter Wilkins for their leadership in filling our need for comfort and spiritual connection.

The Pastoral Care team along with the Last Minutes and New Perspectives groups provided care for seniors along with goodie bags, cards, phone calls, sweets, knitted hearts and daffodil deliveries. Our thanks to everyone who volunteered to support this comforting ministry.

The Little Free Pantry addressed a need right in our neighbourhood. It has been filled (and emptied!) daily since September 2020. Thanks to Outreach's Connie Roden and Marion Axmith and the Last Minutes group for this initiative.

Arlene Duncan and Reid Robson planted 150 bulbs in the Community Garden, resulting in a blooming green space in which nature's beauty brought comfort to neighbours and passers-by.

We found **BELONGING** and Connection in so many ways -

A brilliant team of AV experts and volunteers led worship through live-streaming and then in recorded format, bringing us wonderful surprises to connect and inspire us. We became a digital as well as an in-person community. Online worship series such as UnGlamorous and the Artistry of God engaged us and challenged our thinking. Love aLIVE invited new people into our midst and provided multi-generational connections.

Coffee Hour attracted a core group who enjoyed connecting with conversation on all sorts of topics.

The Christmas Pageant featured 27 children and 3 adults. It was not only engaging and delightful to watch – it communicated a beautiful message that was widely shared with 848 views on Facebook alone! We are grateful for the leadership of the Family Ministry team in giving us this opportunity to connect.

40 young adults connected with the residents of Flourish House in programs they offered including Wednesday Soup suppers, backyard community barbeques and

weekly vespers. Through the intentional community at Flourish House, our connections are growing and deeply meaningful ministry is happening!

We operated with **INTENTIONAL SURVIVAL** in mind, making strong connections in our North Toronto Cluster with Outreach projects, sharing resources and wisdom, and potential partnerships emerging.

The Property Committee installed over 750 LED lights at no cost to ESG and continues to improve the Building Automation System to reduce our carbon footprint.

The Finance team put in over 150 hours to assemble the annual budget and financial statements for 20-21.

Expenses were trimmed without sacrificing programming.

The basement lift got lift-off to create a fully accessible building.

Sincere thanks to Property and Finance for their prudence and planning.

Thanks to our congregation for responding with great generosity when it was most needed.

Safety has been a high priority, and our COVID Response Team has been working very hard all along the way, dealing with the ever-changing rules and requirements. We had 103 responses to our ESG COVID survey this September indicating a 98% vaccination rate among respondents. Well done! We continue to monitor public health updates to try to keep our community safe.

Now we are moving forward! in Faith, in Growth, in Support, in Leadership, and in Gratitude.

Moving Forward in Faith

Worship: The Rev Dr. Paul Hutchison presented on worship plans going forward. Sunday services are available in live and livestream formats with attendees pre-registering each week. Sermon series for the year are Building a Bigger Table (October), Hope after Trauma (November), Comfort and Joy (Advent) with others in development for 2022.

There will be a monthly Evensong service with Rev Don Parsons and Rev Sarah Chapman continues with monthly Love aLIVE dinner church on Sunday evenings.

Family Ministries: Children's Ministry has continued virtually with lessons posted on Facebook and Sunday morning Zoom sessions. The Youth group has been meeting on Sunday mornings for Zoom sessions or walks, and monthly socials on Friday evenings.

Monthly outdoor gatherings are continuing for both groups throughout the Fall – Blessing of the Pets (Sept), Pumpkin Carving (October) and Advent Celebration (November).

Song: Section Leads are providing leadership in services. Choir rehearsals continue over Zoom with as many as 45 people attending. 14 people have joined the choir from as far away as Yellowknife and Nova Scotia. The VOX Youth Community Choir will gather online this Fall. We look forward to singing in person as soon as it is safe to do so.

Moving Forward in Growth

North Toronto Cluster:

- Clergy meet monthly for lunch
- Mentoring relationships with other NT churches
- Jennifer Torrens is collaborating on NTC website
- ESG is seen as a leader in digital communications
- Discussions in progress with Dewi Sant on possible amalgamation
- Opportunities sought for operational collaborations

Project Flourish:

Food Ministry vision:

Interconnected programs, ministries, events and expressions that have a focus on **personal, community and creative growth**, while being deeply **linked to the theme of food and food justice**.

Focus will be on creating a community kitchen including food classes for all ages, making meals together, in-house chef, outreach in-house meal program and building partnerships with businesses in the community.

Future possibilities include partnership in a Farmer's Market, a Pizza Oven Ministry and a cookbook with members' favourite recipes.

Communications:

Through work this year in communications with Six Trends Digital Agency, we believe that:

- We need to focus on digital ministry and communication
- The future is half 'in church' and half 'virtual church', supported by specific food ministries.

Moving Forward in Support:

Financial Report

Fiscal Year Results ending June 30, 2021

| | 2019/2020 Actual | 2020/21 Budget | 2020/21 Budget |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Revenue | \$882.6k (a) | \$780.2k (b) | \$882.2k (c) |
| Interfund Transfer | \$ 80.9k | \$162.6k (d) | \$159.2k (\$39.9k) |
| Expenses | \$930.1k | \$999.2k | \$996.5k |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | \$ 33.4k | \$(56.4k) | \$ 5.0k |

(a) Received **\$34.7k** from Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

(b) Assumed **zero** from CEWS government subsidy

(c) Received **\$66.9k** from CEWS government subsidy & **\$34k** in grants

(d) Includes **\$57.4k** from Property Maintenance for AV system.

Noteworthy Financial Changes

- Donations up by \$5k from the previous year
- Rental income **decreased** by (\$40k) due to COVID
- No rummage sales or concerts
- Blyth is major tenant
- United Church costs increased by \$5k & more in future
- Invested in AV system required to deliver in person & virtual ministry

Generous Undesignated Bequests Received

We are grateful for generous bequests of \$53,000.

Congregational Fund now at \$1,050k

| | June 30 2020 | June 30 2021 |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Leave a Lasting Legacy | \$509k | \$616k |
| Property Maintenance | \$253k | \$247k |
| Operating Reserve | \$170k | \$187k |

ESG Funds: Values as of June 30, 2021

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Congregational Fund: | \$1,050 – up 10% |
| Endowed Funds: | \$1,041k – up 12.6% |
| Restricted Funds: | \$2,019k – up 11.1% |

Increase due to generous bequests & unrealized investment gains.

Financial Priorities for 2021/22

- Secular trend impacting membership & revenue
- Planning challenge: importance of pledges & PAR
- Rental and rummage rev stretch
- Importance of grants
- Focused quarterly review of 21/22 status
- Financially sustainable long term.

ESG Budget for 2021/22

| | 2019/20 Budget | 2019/20 Actual | 2020/21 Budget |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Revenue | \$780.2k | \$882.2k | \$ 814.1k (a) |
| Expenses | \$999.2k | \$996.5k | \$1,079.9k (b) |
| Interfund Transfer | \$162.6k | \$159.2k | \$ 235.4k (c) |
| | | (\$39.9k) | |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$56.4k) | \$ 5.0k (d) | (\$30.4k) |

- (a) No budget for Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy
- (b) Includes \$127k for lift
- (c) Includes \$127k for lift; transfer from Manse Fund.
- (d) Received \$65.0k Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy

It was moved by Gord Thompson and seconded by Charlie Roden that the 2021/22 budget be approved as presented. **CARRIED**

It was moved by Gord Thompson and seconded by Charlie Roden that ESG appoint Kriens LaRose LLP Company to conduct the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 ESG audit. **CARRIED**

Moving Forward in Leadership: Nominating Committee 2021

With many thanks to Marilyn Blair, retiring secretary, Donna MacCandlish presented the following new or extended appointments to Governing Council.

New/Extended Appointments

- Maggie Wilkinson – Chair
- Marion Axmith – Member at Large, Outreach
- Marilyn Piotrowski – Secretary
- John Blevins – Property Chair – extended pending new appointment
- Heather Parker – Ministry & Personnel Chair – extended pending new appointment
- Charlie Roden – Treasurer – extended pending new appointment

It was moved by Donna MacCandlish and seconded by Bob Blair that the list of new/extended appointments to ESG Governing Council and Committees be accepted. **CARRIED**

2021/2022 ESG Slate – Governing Council

- Chair – Maggie Wilkinson
- Past Chair – Susan Moore
- Vice Chair – vacant
- Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski

- Trustees Chair – Hugh DesBrisay
- Property Chair – John Blevins *
- Ministry & Personnel Chair – Heather Parker *
- Finance Chair – Gord Thompson
- Treasurer – Charlie Roden *
- M@L Outreach – Marion Axmith
- M@L Family Ministry – Caren Cate
- M@L Worship, Sacraments, Music – Rob Crabtree
- M@L Pastoral Care – Kathleen Hull
- M@L Church Community Engagement – Donna MacCandlish

* Extended appointments

Honourary Chair

- Doug McWhirter

Regional Reps

- Peter & Penny Wilkins, Donna & Don Lang

Standing Committees

- Worship, Sacraments, Music – Christine Lawson
- Outreach – Connie Roden
- Pastoral Care – Arlene Duncan
- Family – Rotating (Caren Cate oversight)
- Adult Education – Patti Thompson
- Nominating – Donna MacCandlish
- Revenue – vacant

Moving Forward in Gratitude

Donna expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire congregation to Susan Moore for her years of leadership as Chair of the Governing Council.

Maggie recognized staff members for their contributions in this challenging year:

- Irina Denissova – bookkeeper
- A J Brant & Alvaro Perez – custodians

- Bryan Estabrooks – tech support, AV
- Kate Littler – Children’s Programs
- Aidan Legault – Youth Ministry
- Jennifer Torrens – Church Administrator
- Shawn Grenke – Music Director
- Rev. Don Parsons – Pastoral Care Minister
- Rev. Sarah Chapman – Next Generation & Growth Minister
- Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison – Lead Minister

Appreciation is also extended to their partners, spouses and families.

Paul closed the meeting with a prayer

It was moved by Florence Newman and seconded by Alan Morson that this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Honourary Chair, Doug McWhirter

Secretary, Marilyn Piotrowski