

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by ZOOM)
December 14, 2021

Present: Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Rev. Sarah Chapman, Caren Cate, Charlie Roden, Donna MacCandlish, Doug McWhirter, John Blevins, Marion Axmith, Peter Wilkins, Susan Moore, Maggie Wilkinson, Cathy Nolan, Christine Lawson, Gord Thompson

Regrets: Heather Parker, Marilyn Piotrowski

Donna opened the meeting with a reflection.

2021/22 Stewardship Update

- As of December 6th, we had received 65 responses to the 413 letters that had been mailed out. More are expected given the due date of December 15. Pledges are elevated by \$12,000, an increase of 2%, with 24 donors having increased their pledges. Of 342 regular donors, 118 contribute via PAR and an additional 36 make an annual pledge. We have seven new people pledging which could bring this total to 43 assuming we hear back from all donors who pledge.

Dewi Sant Update

- Susan and Peter provided an update.
- Susan, Jennifer Thompson and Peter had a follow-up meeting with members of the Dewi Sant Transition Team to hear their thinking on their decision and feedback that could help ESG with future potential amalgamations. They expressed heartfelt appreciation for efforts made by ESG. They described ESG as welcoming, complimented our integration efforts and admired our commitment to social justice. The singular reason for their decision was the TEMC facilities were a better fit for their congregation.
- ESG has also provided feedback on the process to Jody Maltby (Shining Waters Region) at Jody's request to inform future amalgamations. The two-church strategy that Dewi Sant followed was used for the first time and reflected the unique requirements of an 'adoption' model for a smaller congregation wishing to amalgamate with a larger healthy congregation.

Finance Update

- Donations and rental revenues are below budget, expenses are also below budget due mostly to timing but are expected to be on budget as the year progresses. Little if any funding is expected from the government wage subsidy for July through October and the program ended in October. Gord suggested leveraging cluster discussions moving forward to explore opportunities to share resources.

Paul's Update

- Live streaming work to happen in the new year.
- Gift cards have gone out to all staff.
- Deeply concerned regarding COVID next steps.
- Ninety people have registered for Christmas Eve (registration is required – no last-minute attendees).

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by ZOOM)
December 14, 2021

Sarah's Update

- Some families remain cautious.
- The response to the Nativity Pageant has been very positive and out-door gatherings will continue.
- COVID invites creativity.
- Love Alive will continue – currently attracting 30 people (vs. 65 previously) – continues to be a high-quality experience.
- Planning for a Christmas Eve service which is inter-generational with carols, stories and short reflections.
- The Flourish team is meeting to look ahead to next year – more to follow.
- She is finalizing the job description for a social media professional to fill the gap left by Six Trends. This contract will be funded via Flourish grant money.
- Plans are underway to commence a new initiative to compile a cookbook of recipes and related stories offered up by ESG members – Bonnie Joynt taking the lead.
- Folks encouraged to join the Carol Sing at Flourish House – 7:00 PM December 15

Property Update

- Report attached. John highlighted that Blythe will be moving office staff into the building and paying all the costs associated with their move that impact ESG (we will be spending some ESG \$\$ for work we need to do in the same area), that the family ministry cabinets and counters are now installed with some touch up work to follow.

Nominating Update

- Peter reported that Kristen Ede has agreed to join the Board of Trustees, following a discussion with Trustees Chair, Hugh DesBrisay. She brings to the role a background in commercial finance and investments. She also played a key leadership role in the Syrian refugee initiative undertaken by ESG several years ago and is actively raising funds again for the Syrian Education Fund (\$34K to date). Peter moved to confirm Kristen to the Board of Trustees. Donna seconded. CARRIED.

Business Items

Minutes

Approval of minutes of November 16th meeting proposed by Maggie, seconded by Caren.

CARRIED

Closing prayer - Paul

Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

Acting Secretary – Donna MacCandlish