**EGLINTON ST. GEORGE’S UNITED CHURCH**

**MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**April 25, 2023**

**Present :** Rev. Sarah Chapman, Maggie Wilkinson, Marilyn Piotrowski, Donna MacCandlish, Caren Cate, Charlie Roden, Bob Blair, Gord Brookes, Gord Thompson, John Blevins, Kathleen Hull, Hugh DesBrisay, Marion Axmith.

**Special Guest:** Janet Walker, Alan Walker

**Regrets:** Doug McWhirter, Peter Wilkins, Kathleen Hull

Caren opened the meeting with a prayer.

**PRIORITIES**

**Strategic Goal: Leadership**

All members are reminded to stay current with ESG emails and announcements to be fully informed and for a wider view.

**Sabbatical Update:** (Janet)

* Janet will be the Sabbatical connection to the Council;
* No more communications will be issued to the congregation;
* Don and Sarah have found the additional work is manageable;
* MJ is now the Sabbatical Coordinator since Jennifer has returned to work;
* MJ meets with Janet weekly;
* Janet offers thanks to MJ – a delight to work with!

**Mentorship** (Donna)

* Idea for a Mentorship program came from Volunteer Leadership discussions with the Property team;
* Program to enable members to share expertise with young individuals seeking guidance, mentorship and hands-on experience;
* In early stages, Donna open to feedback;
* Two offers:
  + ‘Learning While Doing’ and ‘Accessing Experts’
* Goals are to provide benefits to mentees, engage with community, expand volunteer base and grow membership.
* Cross-generational context with benefits of learning from each other.
* Next steps:
  + Review and refine concept with key stakeholders;
  + Explore similar programs.

**Food Ministry Update** (Sarah)

* Successful grant application for $58k from Comm. Services Recovery Fund.
* Focus on 3 areas:
  + Community Garden-
    - Larger giving gardens, introducing remote plots
  + Little Food Pantry
    - Fresh food from gardens;
    - Offered by table to start or mobile unit;
  + Community Kitchen
    - Food justice;
    - Will survey other churches, communities e.g. Ukrainian refugees contacted through the Churches on the Hill Foodbank regarding a community meal
* Money will be received in next week;
* Start May 1st for 13 months
* Move from transactional to relational;
* Canada Summer Jobs:
  + Applied for 5, received approval for 3 ($13,680)
  + Hugh suggested that Trustee money (Mens Jameson Fund) could be used to fund more resources.
* Thanks to Next Generation Support group, Greg and Maggie for assistance

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Minutes of Mar 21 Council meeting (**Marilyn**)**

* Marilyn moved that the minutes of the Mar 21st Council meeting be accepted;

Gord T. seconded.

CARRIED

**Finance** (Gord T)

* Finance Report
  + Positive $12k variance on contributions YTD;
  + Fundraising $7k above budget before $24.9 included from Rummage Sale;
  + Revenues YTD above budget – good news!
  + Positive variance in Expenses but does not include Storage Room Roof replacement costs;
  + Operating expenses will benefit from portion of 2022-23 significant bequests of $430k.
  + Stewardship letter will go out by end of April – thanks to Susan Moore, Cathy Nolan and Jennifer Thompson for their leadership.
  + Recommendation discussed to place envelopes in chairs for every service and pass the offering plate at Christmas and Easter.
  + Maggie will book a brief meeting re pre-budget process.

**Sarah’s Update**

* Easter went well;
* Family ministry – Palm Sunday parade and Earth Day activities;
* Last two Love aLIVEs have had two great guests – a cellist/educator (March) and singer/songwriter (April) ;
* Two more Food Justice workshops planned – community built around cooking.
* Community garden work underway;
* Food bank survey with Church on the Hill cluster re cooking/sharing program starting this Fall.
* Re-imagining Love aLIVE format for next year.

**M & P (Bob)**

* Jennifer Torrens has returned to work 1 week earlier than planned;
* Thanks to Heather, Janet, MJ and Ashley for covering;
* Renewal of contracts in progress;
* Noted that Murray goes over and beyond;
* Roles under discussion and assessment;
* Emphasis on how Roles & Responsibilities mesh, any gaps, how needs must be met.

**Nominating** (Donna)

* Hosting program going well;
* Working on Treasurer replacement and Vice Chair position.

**Property** (Doug, John)

* IT security being tightened;
* Any feedback re IT Security documents distributed before meeting to John, Doug Dicks or Peter Long.
* Slab contract should be signed off by end of week;
* Work planned to finish by end of July;
* John to investigate if this work will have any impact on the summer camp using the gym in July/August.

**Pride Affirmation Funding request** (Maggie)

* Funding request received from Shining Water Region Pride Network 2023;
* Need to rent a bus to enable those with mobility issues to join the Pride Parade;
* Outreach will arrange for a $250 donation.

**Trustees** (Hugh)

* No report

Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer.

**NEXT MEETING**

* Next meeting May 16th on Zoom – Don to attend in Sarah’s absence.
* Gord Brookes will do opening prayer.

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Chair – Maggie Wilkinson Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski