

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Sep 19, 2023

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

Regrets:, Peter Wilkins

Guests: Alan Walker.

Marian opened the meeting with a prayer.

PRIORITIES

- Maggie welcomed Paul back from his Sabbatical.

Marketing Strategy (Alan)

- Alan presented the Marketing Strategy document prepared by Ashley, ESG Communication Coordinator;
- Maggie distributed a summary to enhance understanding;
- Issues to be addressed are:
 - ESG Website not in sync with ESG social media;
 - Communication is not consistent across all media;
 - Need to measure how website is used, by whom, with statistics;
- Recommendation made to create a Communication/Marketing team;
- It is understood that updating the website is the top priority;
- It was agreed that there should be a report back to Council once the new Communications Coordinator is hired.
- Marion moved that Council approve the marketing strategy goals, subject to enhancements with clarifying language to clearly state the four main goals.
- Caren seconded.

CARRIED

Business Items

Minutes of the June 20th, July 18th and Sep 5th meetings (Marilyn)

- Marilyn moved that the minutes of the June 20th, July 18th and Sep 5th meetings be accepted;
- Caren seconded;

CARRIED

Minster's Report (Sarah)

- Evaluations have been done for summer staff;
- Six workshops were held over the summer;
- Debrief planned with remote plot renters – 13 outside ESG;
- Cooler has been placed beside the Little Free Pantry for fresh produce but can be used for hot meals over winter;
- 20 children and youth attended the BBQ, more events are planned;
- Youth Coordinator, Rowena Hetherington-Wilson has started;
- New Expressions music was held Sept 17 (MJ and 2 guitarists), well received
- Jaimie – student minister doing his placement for Emmanuel College with Sarah as supervisor; will be working with her at ESG through Christmas
- Chad Lewis – is working with Outreach to plan events such as a cooking event featuring Ukrainian food for refugees (an opportunity to cook together vs be served); also running 2 Food Justice events (Sept 27, Nov 22) and managing the fresh pantry cooler.
- Two Love aLIVE events are planned for Oct 22 and Nov 26.
- Labyrinth blessing was on Sunday with 1st workshop tonight.

Minister's Report (Paul)

- Monthly staff lunches have been set up to promote team-building.
- MJ has been working at the Welcome desk. Positive reception for visitors.

M&P (Bob)

- MJ started on Sep 18 although contract has not been signed;

- She will be on-site 2.5 days per week and at home 1.5 days; exact days TBD;
- Health and Safety considerations have been raised with respect to working from home arrangements;
- Currently being investigated;
- One thousand applications have been received for the Communications Coordinator position.

Engagement and Nominating (Donna)

- Evolve sessions underway;
- Looking for suggestions for activities for volunteers at the Welcome Desk;
- Request sent out for Hospitality volunteers, slow response so far;
- Work continues seeking a Vice -Chair for Council;
- Peter Wilkins has joined the Pastoral Care team;
- Nominating team needs replenishing;
- More younger volunteers would be ideal.

Property (John)

- Storage Room project almost completed;
- Minor repairs in progress and water on the floor due to heavy rain and an open drain line has been fixed.

Finance (Charlie)

- While actual monthly and YTD contributions are ahead of budget, YTD actuals are behind last year's figures;
- Rentals are below budget but YTD ahead of last year;
- Overall net loss is below budgets but virtually equal to the previous year which is not overly encouraging.
- Discussion around passing of plates during services led to:
 - Worship committee to decide which services are to be considered "special" and plates will be passed;
 - Paul will check with Metropolitan Church on their use of 'tap' machine for feasibility of use at ESG;

- New envelopes that will facilitate automatic payments are being prepared to have in pews every week .
- One item in P/L report needs clarification before Council can approve Financial Statements;
- Will be approved at next meeting.

Shining Waters (Maggie)

- Water Walk will take place on Sept 30th at 4pm at Evergreen Brickworks.

Outreach (Marion)

- Further to the Refugee Committee item discussed in the January 2023 Council meeting, Immigration Canada have accepted ESG as co-sponsor for the Afghani family currently in Pakistan;
- Kristin Ede would like to start fund-raising for \$30k to support this family.

Next Meeting:

- Oct 17th, 2023 @ 7:00 pm In person at ESG and on Zoom;
- Prayer by Bob.
- Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer.

Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski