

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Apr 16, 2024

Present (In person or on ZOOM): Maggie Wilkinson, Marilyn Piotrowski, Caren Cate, Marion Axmith, Donna MacCandlish, Rev. Sarah Chapman, Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, John Blevins, Kathleen Hull, Peter Wilkins, Doug McWhirter, Hugh DesBrisay, Heather Parker.

Regrets: Gord T., Gord B., Bob Blair.

Priorities:

Sabbatical Report Update (Heather)

- Heather introduced the Plan for Sarah's Sabbatical that had been approved by the M & P committee;
- UCC funding has been obtained from the region;
- Sarah walked through the plan in more detail outlining:
 - Her 3 main areas of focus,
 - Arrangements for coverage during the Sabbatical;
 - Post-Sabbatical activities;
 - Timeline from March to November 2024.

Evolve Updates: (Hugh)

- The Program Task Team are proposing to hire STRAAD Consulting to support the Worship & Music areas of the Evolve Program;
- STRAAD will review all aspects of ESG's Worship & Music in a three phase approach;
 - Discovery process
 - Recommendations
 - Communication and Workshop
- Funding of \$45,000 will be sourced from the Harrison Rowland Fund after the fund's 20th anniversary on June 10th.
- Hugh moved:
 1. That ESG engage the services of STRAAD Consulting to conduct a review, facilitation and planning for the future of Worship & Music.

2. That the cost of these services is not to exceed \$45,000 for the proposed 3 phases of the work including fees, travel (if any) & taxes;
3. That funding of this project be sourced from the Harrison Rowland Fund;
4. That ESG enter into an engagement letter with STRAAD satisfactory to both parties and recommended by EVOLVE.

- Seconded by Donna MacCandlish.

CARRIED

Business Items

Minutes of the Mar 19th meeting (Marilyn)

- Marilyn moved that the minutes of the Mar 19th meeting be accepted with one correction;
- Seconded by Charlie

CARRIED

- Donna offered to sub for Marilyn as minute taker for the May Council meeting as Marilyn will be unavailable

Minister's Update (Sarah)

- Sarah presented the Next Generation and Growth report;
- Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were very well attended with over 50 children and youth at the Easter Sunday service;
- Love aLive Apr 28th , Food Justice May 8th.

Minister's Update (Paul)

- Easter Sunday attendance was 303, up from 250 and 200 attending in 2023 and 2022 respectively;
- Summer services will be shared with LPCC – ESG July in Eglinton Room and LPCC in August. Ministers, lectionary readers, soloists will alternate through the summer.
- Next year's worship plan 98% complete including dates for other events – Christmas, Love aLive, Evensong.
- Irina's 5th anniversary was celebrated by lunch with Charlie at the Cricket Club ;

- Special Earth Day activities planned for April 21st service.

Property (John)

- Charges for three of the four false fire alarms have been received from Toronto Fire Department;
- Some reimbursement may be possible after adjudication at Toronto Fire Department.

Shining Waters (Peter)

- The UCC remit motion to establish an autonomous national Indigenous organization within the UCC was passed by the congregations and regions of the UCC. Information and links to the response by the Indigenous church will be in this week's newsletter.

Finance (Charlie.)

- Contributions slightly lower for month but ahead of budget YTD and last year's YTD;
- Rental income over \$18k above budget with \$50k ahead of last year's YTD;
- Overall \$50k positive variance.
- Maggie would like to highlight that at the congregational meeting of April 14, the congregation approved proposed changes to the LLL distribution formula as well as to update the LLL manual. Council approved these changes in February and now direct the Trustees to ensure this model be used for future distributions from the fund. Many thanks to Gord, Hugh, Paul, Doug, Peter and Marilyn for their roles in having a successful meeting.

Trustees (Hugh)

- Trustees will be directed on the Harrison Rowland Trust decision.

M & P

- No report

Pastoral Care (Kathleen)

- A new volunteer, Paige Ferguson, has joined the Pastoral Care team.

Other Business

- Maggie announced that she will be stepping down from the Council Chair position in June and will acting as the Past Chair starting in the Fall.

- Her message was received with deep gratitude and respect.
- The search for a new Chair is still in progress with other options, such as co-leads, being considered.

Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting:

- May 21st 2024 @ 7 pm, Prayer by Charlie

Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski