

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Sep 17, 2024

Present (In person or on ZOOM): Maggie Wilkinson, Marilyn Piotrowski, Caren Cate, Marion Axmith, Donna MacCandlish, Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, John Blevins, Kathleen Hull, Peter Wilkins, Hugh DesBrisay, Bob Blair, Gord B., Charlie Roden.

Special Guests: Doug McWhirter, Susan Moore.

Regrets: Gord Thompson, Rev. Sarah Chapman (sabbatical)

Paul opened the meeting with a prayer.

Maggie announced that Susan Moore will take over from Doug McWhirter as Chair of Congregation. Many thanks to Doug for his years of service to ESG Council.

Priorities:

- **Evolve Update** (Hugh)
 - The EVOLVE team was tasked with developing a plan to enhance ESG's Worship and Music offerings;
 - They engaged STRAAD Consulting to more clearly understand and identify growth opportunities for all forms of worship and music programming.
 - Following completion of a series of focus groups, surveys and one-on-one meetings, STRAAD Consulting presented their conclusions and recommendations to the EVOLVE team of Hugh, Gord Thompson and Janet Hardy.
 - Five areas were identified as opportunities for change:
 - Strategic Direction;
 - Worship Experience;
 - Ministry Leadership;
 - Participant Journey;
 - Governance and Accountability;
 - Next steps included a six-month plan with a mandate from Council to proceed with and fund the next steps that are recommended on page 5 of the report:

1. A working team building/effectiveness session led by STRAAD with all 4 members of the ministry team;
 2. A session led by STRAAD with M&P to assist in the reworking of role descriptions, plans for supporting ministry team development and improved feedback loops;
 3. A session led by STRAAD with the worship and music committee to establish enhanced terms of reference; and
 4. A day and a half long workshop, led by STRAAD, engaging both lay and ministerial leadership, to establish a clear perspective of where we are going, why and how we will get there – working to finalize a strategic direction inclusive of vision, mission, differentiation, objectives, goals and priorities over the next three to five years.
- Bob moved that ESG Council accepts the Worship & Music Initial Report and authorizes the EVOLVE team to pursue the mandate to proceed and fund the next steps as described with a budget of up to \$70k from proceeds of the Harrison Rowlands Funds.
 - Seconded by Donna
 - **CARRIED**
 - **Trillium Grant update** (Susan)
 - The application for a Trillium Grant to provide funds for the basement kitchen renovation was rejected;
 - Feedback was received afterwards that could be used in future applications:
 - Website needs to support the application;
 - Metrics are needed;
 - Establish communities in need;
 - More secular manner.
 - We were encouraged to submit a request again.

Business Items

Minutes of the June 18th meeting (Marilyn)

- Marilyn moved that the minutes of the Jun 18th meeting be accepted with the addition for the motion by M&P re: increases. The minutes should show that the 1 abstention was the Chair of M&P since the recommendations were being amended, and that “suggestion was made to M&P that market research be completed prior to next year’s review” should read

that "Suggestion was made *by* M&P that market research be completed prior to next year's review"

- Seconded by Charlie

CARRIED

Minutes of the July 16th meeting (Marilyn)

- Marilyn moved that the minutes of the July 16th meeting be accepted;
- Minutes will be altered to show Kathleen sent regrets for this meeting;
- Seconded by Charlie

CARRIED

Minister's Update (Paul)

- MJ meeting re working off-site;
- Staff lunch Thursday;
- New account code set up to integrate Flourish House work in ESG statement;
- Worship grid circulated;
- Program Guide condensed down to one page;
- Worship graphics completed to end of Fall;
- Work on stewardship letters started.

Nominating (Donna)

- In absence of a candidate for Chair of Council, Donna presented a proposal for rotation of the Chair position among Council members;
- Two members would share the Chair responsibilities for a 3-month period;
- Donna moved to proceed with the rotating co-chair model with two volunteers already named in place to be followed by confirmation with others in schedule.
- Seconded by Marion;
- **CARRIED**
- Charlie moved that the official signature for this time period will be the past Chair
- Seconded by Gord B.

- **CARRIED**

Next Gen Report (Peter)

- Report distributed.

Finance (Charlie)

- Final June 2024 report shows \$53k surplus due to donations plus change in interfund transfers bps allocation plus generous bequests in 2023-24.
- August contributions are positive;
- Fundraising variance due to transfers from Harrison Rowlands funds to cover STRAAD consulting \$26K;
- Overall YTD (\$45) loss ahead of budget of (\$40).

Property (John)

- More false fire alarms caused a fire inspector visit on Sep 2nd;
- Alarm company looking into this.

Shining Waters (Peter)

- Nothing to report

M & P (Bob)

- Don's contract has been renewed for another year;
- New contract being built for Ashley;
- Bob moved that the Food Justice Coordinator contract be extended from Dec 2024 to Dec 2025.
- Seconded by Charlie

- **CARRIED**

Trustees (Hugh)

- Nothing to report.

Other Business:

Worship (Gord B.)

- Replacement organ is in storage;
- Committee's first meeting was as Evolve report arrived;
- Keen to learn more about next steps.

Donation (Maggie)

- One of the Pickleball players at ESG has offered a Steinway piano to ESG.

Closing Prayer:

Paul closed the meeting with a prayer.

Next Meeting:

- There will be a Cluster meeting at LPCC on Oct 27th
- Next Council meeting will be Oct 7th

Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski