

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Apr 29th, 2025

Present: Peter Wilkins (Chair), Donna MacCandlish, Marion Axmith, Marilyn Piotrowski, Caren Cate, Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, John Blevins, Bob Blair, Gord Brookes, Gord Thompson, Rev Sarah Chapman, Maggie Wilkinson, Susan Moore, Hugh DesBrisay.

Regrets: Kathleen Hull

Reflection

Sarah led attendees in a reflection on "Where is your water at ESG?"

Opening Prayer (Donna)

Priorities:

Strategic Direction updates (Paul, Sarah)

- Timelines:
 - Town Hall after service in next few weeks before summer;
 - Multiple sessions to be held for further dialogue, questions & feedback;
- Next piece of work:
 - Staff Structure M & P meetings with Ayana including Dorothy Carson.

Motion to approve Strategic Direction (S.D.) highlights (Peter)

- Approval of Council needed for Strategic Direction highlights;
- Discussion ensued on wording of "Unapologetic Welcome" and underlying intent;
- Gord Thompson moved that Council approves Strategic Direction highlights as per upper half of page 14 of Strategic Direction document March 2025;
- Seconded by Gord Brookes;
- **CARRIED**

Motion to Thank and wrap up Evolve teams

- Discussion ensued;
- A mover was not found for this motion.

Business Items

Minutes of the Mar 25th meeting (Marilyn)

- Marilyn moved that the minutes of the Mar 25th meeting be accepted;
- Seconded by Maggie;

CARRIED

Ratify Consulting Decision (Hugh)

- Motion to ratify the decision made by the Chairs of Governing Council, the chair of Finance the chair of the Board of Trustees, Paul & Sarah on March 29, 2025 to approve the expenditure of an additional \$20,000 plus HST from the Harrison Rolland Fund to pay for support services from STRAAD Consulting on team structure and strategic change management in line with the new strategic direction.
- Seconded by Caren

CARRIED

Minister's Update (Paul)

- Working on next year's worship;
- First draft completed.

Minister's Update (Sarah)

- Successful Love aLive with attendees from the congregation and past Love aLive events;
- Three part Food Justice events – Food & Faith;
- Four Canada Summer jobs approved – and last year's people are returning;
- May 25th service by Confirmation Class.

M & P (Bob)

- Part-time caretaker hired to replace individual who was terminated;

- HR consultant approved to address staffing questions but not going ahead to avoid overlap with Ayana's work.
- Memo prepared by MJ based on Ashley's experiences in her role at ESG was circulated and discussed.

Finance (Gord T.)

- Ahead of budget YTD;
- However, 200k is budgeted for donations in April to June period;
- Bequests have made this year's figure's positive but this cannot be expected again next year.
- Positive overall results.

Outreach (Marion)

- St. Luke's Mission in downtown Toronto is scheduled to be re-developed;
- ESG Outreach, together with other churches, has been asked to contribute \$5k per year to cover their costs while out of the building;
- Outreach budget will be increased to accommodate;
- If not approved, deferred Outreach budget is available.

Property (John)

- Contractor selected for refinishing sanctuary floor;
- Coordinating with Organ contractors;
- Donation of \$20k received for this;
- Will take place over 2 weeks in August.

Family Ministry (Caren)

- Very successful Palm Sunday;
- 35 children attended Easter Service.

Closing Prayer (Sarah)

Next Meeting:

- Council Meeting: May 20th, 2025 in person + Teams ;
- Co-chairs Gord Thompson & John Blevins,
- Prayer by Caren.

Chair – Peter Wilkins

Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski