

**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)
August 31, 2020**

Present: John Blevins, Marilyn Blair, Caren Cate, Rob Crabtree, Hugh DesBrisay, Kathleen Hull, Rev. Paul Hutchison, Donna MacCandlish, Susan Moore, Heather Parker, Charlie Roden, Gord Thompson, Maggie Wilkinson,

Guests: Lisa Elder, Christine Lawson, Doug McWhirter, Rev. Don Parsons, Alan Walker, Peter Wilkins

Kathleen Hull opened the meeting with prayer.

Priorities

1. Marketing communications Project Update

Alan presented the continuing work of Project Flourish which is moving forward as planned.

Lisa presented details on the current position on the marketing including the new proposed logo with focus on discovery. We discussed the need for updating the functions of the website and facebook pages making them more interactive.

2. Fiscal 19/20 year-end.

ESG has ended the year in a better financial position than expected but we still have many challenges going forward.

3. Budget

Gord expressed the concern of the Finance Committee regarding the level of the deficit budget being considered for 20/21. They are recommending that Council approve the budget for presentation to the congregation and that the congregation be encouraged to understand that ESG cannot sustain the current financial position and efforts will have to be made to correct it.

Gord moved and Caren Cate seconded a motion to approve the Budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting. **CARRIED**

4. Property

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee Gord moved and Charlie seconded a motion that the money for the sound system should be taken from the Property Maintenance Fund. **CARRIED**

5. Re-opening

Susan reported on the covid-19 re-opening position.

- Singing is not allowed except for a soloist behind a barrier. This is awesome news that some music will be permitted.

6. AGM and Town Hall

Both meetings will be held in-person and on-line.

AGM October 18, 2020 noon to 1pm

Town Hall September 20, 2020 11:30

Business:

Minutes of previous meeting

With the corrected change of date of re-opening service being September 13 the minutes moved by Marilyn and seconded by Charlie were approved. **CARRIED**

Donna highlighted her report and encouraged members to read and respond.

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- Upcoming Meetings

- Town Hall, Sept 20, 2020 11:30-12:30 (TBC)
- Council meeting, Sept 22, 2020, 7-9pm
- Annual Congregational Meeting, October 18, 2020, noon- 1pm

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Blair

Reports

Outreach Committee Report: Aug 31 , 2020.

Compassionate Justice:

No new info currently on CJ plans for the coming year.

Peace with Justice

A letter writing campaign addressing the issue of homelessness in Toronto was sent out via the weekly email on August 20th. This initiative originated with Lawrence Park CC and Fairlawn Ave United and is part of our cluster sharing of information/ resources. We hope to have this

advocacy letter campaign living on the website and periodically to draw attention to it through the weekly emails.

Amnesty International petitions / letters are being distributed online through the weekly email on a quarterly basis.

Thursday Drop in Program

This program has ended. Outreach will be staffing a table in front of ESG through Sept and October on Thursday afternoons in case past Drop In guests arrive expecting the program to be running. We will at that time try to collect contact information and see if our guests would be interested in receiving a Good Food Box on a monthly basis. We will also draw their attention to the Little Free Pantry project and have a list of other resources in the area available.

Out of the Cold

At this time, we are uncertain about the future of the Out of the Cold program in Toronto for next year. We will await word from the city and from the OOTC board about what will be possible come next November.

Good Food Box Program

The program running twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG for May and June. We are filling a need for some neighbours who are not able to get out to the grocery store easily. Since we restarted the program in April, we have given away 35 boxes of food to those in need, including our Syrian families and some of our Drop In clients who appreciate the support.

We will continue to offer the GFB program (out of Maggie's garage) for the foreseeable future and will run the program twice monthly.

DISMAS

Dismas has been meeting online for the past few months. We have let them know that ESG Outreach is interested in helping out if possible. They will be deciding on whether dinners can be held safely or if they need to adopt another format.

Two of our Good Food Box recipients are Dismas members.

Gifts to Agencies

Through the Pandemic Support campaign, ESG donated \$2500 to each of The Massey Centre, Fred Victor COVID Fund, Street Health and Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM), for a total of \$10,000. We plan to use any funds that came in after these disbursements to fund future projects to support these agencies, such as kits for young moms, street survival, transition housing etc... These projects will be announced and volunteers support solicited through the ESG weekly email sometime later in the fall.



Free Little Pantry

As of Sept 10th, the ESG Free Little Pantry will be up and running! We are very excited about this initiative that makes our food cupboard accessible to the community for people to give what they can and take what they need. Information is going out to the congregation in the ESG email on Sept 3rd. We will be monitoring the pantry closely through the fall and hope to engage the community in stocking it as well as using ESG Outreach funds as a back up.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group

Out of the violent events of this summer has sprouted a Zoom discussion group, initially made up of members of the choir, who have been meeting every 2 weeks to discuss resources related to racism and how best to become an Anti- Racist. The group is enjoying rich discussion and is compiling a list of resources on the issue that eventually we will make available on the ESG website. For now, the group has invited the congregation to read / view a few of the resources it has found particularly helpful in the weekly email of Aug 27th. We hope to facilitate other small group discussions on this issue to develop a greater awareness of the issue within our congregation and beyond and to educate ourselves.

Fair Trade Fair

Kate Littler is examining different ways in which we might safely hold our annual Fair Trade Fair at ESG. We hope to be able to figure something out that could allow for physical distancing in our space.

Cluster Discussion

There have been several emails and a September meeting for cluster church representatives and city staff is being scheduled regarding the opening of a city shelter at the Roehampton Hotel at Mt. Pleasant and Roehampton. ESG and other churches in the cluster are interested in offering assistance to the residents and are now waiting to learn what form that could take. Currently the city is providing meals, mental health and counselling services at the site and a Community Liaison Committee is being formed in September to allow interested parties the opportunity to engage with issues around the shelter.

ESG PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT AUG 30th, 2020

1. New dishwasher installed in the main floor kitchen in June.
2. During a recent storm two fuses blew in the electrical room causing loss of power to the boiler room sump pump causing minor flooding. Our HVAC contractors Power Associates Group Inc. attended to the situation. The intent is to provide a battery backup for the pump. In the mean time the cause of the outage is being investigated. This weekend electrical receptacles were converted to GFIC in the boiler room as a safety precaution and monitoring devices have been installed on the boiler room sump pump.
3. Driveway: work is scheduled for early October. We are working on moving the date up in an effort to minimize the impact on the opening of Blyth Academy.
4. Replacement of the sound system update: the audio installation is complete and Brian Estabrooks will meet with the contractor on Monday night to review the console and layout. It will be ready for the Tuesday recording session. One Handheld microphone transmitter is back ordered and the projector is due to arrive and be installed next week.
5. We have consulted with industry experts on Hearing Assist Devices and a summary of five Hearing assist technologies will be available later in the week. Based on the findings we will define the design requirements for ESG's needs and proceed to purchase and install the system.
6. United Church Faithful Footprints Grant revised application (for replacing the lamps in the church building with LEDs and completing the Building Automation System (BAS)) was submitted Aug 27th. We expect to have a reply by end of September at which point we will advise Council of the findings and if appropriate seek Council permission to proceed with the installation(s)
7. The federal Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) grant application has been submitted and will be reviewed between September and December 2020