

EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)

January 19, 2021

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

Guests: Jennifer Thompson, Doug McWhirter, Peter Wilkins, Christine Lawson, Alan Walker.

Regrets: Rob Crabtree

Christine opened the meeting with prayer.

Priorities

Project Flourish – Alan, Sarah

Final report from RAMP Communications received Jan 27th; committee is happy with outcomes to date. ESG website, launched mid-December, received over 1400 hits representing contacts with no prior connection to ESG.

Committee is establishing priorities for the balance of the funds – Request For Proposal will be issued shortly (responses requested by Feb 8th) for plan to build on social media presence.

Two initiatives: Cultural Kitchen Party was a success in drawing 14 participants to the first event - half of whom are from the external community. The Love aLIVE Dinner Church event has had up to 65 participants gathering for a 'virtual' Sunday meal, fellowship and music.

Flourish House changes: one resident is moving out and Amy is returning at the start of February. They continue to meet weekly planning for new programs and will leverage the resources of the UCC Emerging Spirit grant.

C. Roden inquired as to the status of the grants and if expenditures are logged specifically to the appropriate grant, of which there are three: Flourish House [\$25K], PTCC [\$267] and United Church [\$5K]. It was noted that the \$60 K to \$80K left is in the PTCC budget.

Gord Thompson asked if we are meeting the granting bodies reporting criteria. Donna MacCandlish noted that a comprehensive report would be sent at the end of the 3-year grant period [Sept 2021] and that we are following reporting conventions.

Stewardship Campaign – Jennifer

There was a 49% response to the recent campaign resulting in a 70% overall increase on donations. Both the number of people using PAR and the number of pledges have increased. A "Lessons Learned" exercise will be undertaken by the committee.

COVID Response Team Update - Susan, Heather

As a result of City of Toronto Public Health guidelines update issued Jan 4, 2021, the church building is closed other than for building maintenance and security, limited staff access for business that cannot reasonably be performed remotely. Live streaming/recording of worship services has ceased until further notice. Those having to enter the building must comply with the established protocol. ESG prepared plans for reopening, which are under review. It was

noted that this should be communicated to the congregation for their reassurance, perhaps at a Town hall meeting.

UN-Glamorous: Race and Inequality in a Christian Framework - Christine, Maggie, Paul (Outline attached)

Based on a small group that has formed at ESG to better understand matters of race and inequity, a 5- part Lenten series is being created (for our church) by Heather Beamish (spoken word artist who was a special guest for the November LoveaLIVE) to explore this theme during Lent. It will include children and youth and will be part of the Sunday worship, the We are not Alone newsletter, and the Prayer Circle.

The hope is that other members of the North Toronto Cluster will participate. The program will be an agenda item at the February 4th Cluster meeting. Other congregations will be invited to a March 21st panel discussion with the hope of other churches contributing and building Cluster engagement.

It was asked if one has to sign up for this program and the response is that this program has been developed for ESG but other cluster members are welcome to participate. There is no need to sign up for the series; however, registration will likely be required for the panel discussion piece.

AV/IT Task Group Report – John

Reported on progress to date and proposed outcomes of the AV/IT Task group. Clarity needed on roles and time commitment.

Thanks to Peter Long, Doug Dicks and Rob Crabtree for all they have done.

Concern was expressed about the statement that “there is a strong need to control any changes”. Response was that these are changes to the hardware configurations and to some software. The users are free to revise their requirements, but the system administrators will implement them.

There was a brief discussion on the potential of recruiting volunteers to operate the sound booth including the possibility of volunteers/interns such as high school students or college/university programs.

Town Hall Meeting – Susan

February 7 has been confirmed for a Town Hall meeting addressing the following:

- Stewardship campaign results
- Financial report
- Project Flourish update
- Outreach Project update
- Relevant program updates – Nomination, Welcome Baskets etc.

The Dewi Sant Welsh Congregation initiative is progressing more slowly than their Transition team had planned due to lockdown.

Business Items

Minutes of December meeting

It was moved by Gord Thompson and seconded by Charlie Roden that the minutes of December 15, 2020 meeting be accepted as written. CARRIED

Finance – Gord

The operating Income and Expenses summary to end of December 2020 was tabled and highlights are a substantial increase in both local giving and gift in kind donations. Net operating income is well ahead of the YTD budget, due in large measure to the federal government's Wage Subsidy program.

Committees have been asked to review expenses to date and projections to the end of the fiscal year. To assist in the task Kim MacLaurin of Finance has sent each committee a template on which to submit their response. Replies need to be returned by Jan 29, 2021.

The committee would like to thank the ESG supporters for their tremendous response to the Stewardship campaign and will do so at the February Town hall meeting.

Ministers' Update – Paul, Sarah (Report attached)

The children and youth ministries through the Sunday morning programs are popular within the ESG family and beyond. It is connecting within the North Toronto Cluster

Paul and Sarah discussed plans to pre-record children's participation in virtual services. ESG will reach out to North Toronto Cluster members to have their youth join the ESG youth ministries.

Paul mentioned a 'sermon by phone' initiative whereby people can call and listen to a Sunday worship service to build engagement in the community. The system will accommodate up to 50 callers at a time with each call starting at the beginning of the tape. This system cannot link with live streaming so users will have to log in by phone after live streaming of the service is finished. The phone link will be 416-619-4717.

Nominating –Donna (Report Attached)

The committee is pleased to announce candidates for Council Secretary and Vice Chair.

Motions:

Moved by Donna MacCandlish and Seconded by Gord Thompson that Marilyn Piotrowski be appointed Secretary on ESG's Governing Council. Passed

Moved by Donna MacCandlish and Seconded by Charlie Roden that Maggie Wilkinson be appointed Vice Chair on ESG's Governing Council. Passed

The startup of the Winter 2021 Ambassador program has commenced and an option to contact members and friends of ESG via a "Zoom Room" is under consideration.

M&P – Heather (Report attached)

The committee tabled a report on Covid-19 protocols at ESG.

It was noted that Gord Henderson is being approached to assist the AV/IT Task Group.

Trustees – Hugh

Directionally, the Trustees are pleased with the annualized rate of return to the end of December, particularly considering some market uncertainty due to the COVID 19 public health emergency.

Property – John [Report attached]

Committee report highlights –

Outreach Committee has submitted an update report [Report attached]

Closing prayer - Paul

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski

Council Meeting January 19, 2021 via Zoom

Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Notes for Council Meeting of January 19, 2021

Committee News and Activities

- Special thanks to the ministerial team (Paul Hutchison, Sarah Chapman and Don Parsons), the music team (Shawn Grenke, the ESG leads/soloists and the ESG Choir) and Bryan Estabrooks for providing us with a wonderful Christmas offering of services: Pageant Sunday (December 13), Christmas in a Minor Key (December 17), a Celtic Christmas service (December 20), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- In light of the declared state of emergency and the stay-at-home order, services are no longer being live-streamed from the church building, but will be available as a pre-recorded video service on Sundays at 10:30 am. Music, prayers, candle lighting, messages and liturgy will be self-recorded at home, or in the church. This change further reduces the number of people in the church building out of care for staff and the whole community's well being.
- Zoom coffee hour will continue starting at 11:30 am.
- The Technical task force is continuing its review of our immediate and future AV and technical needs and sorting out process for livestreaming.
- The next Love aLIVE, dinner church is on January 24th at 5 pm with special musical guests Piper and Carson.

Upcoming Worship Themes:

- 5-part Lenten Series: Unglamorous: A 5-week starter course on race inequality from a Christian Framework. Based on a small group that has formed at ESG to better understand matters of race and inequity, a 5- part Lenten series is being created (for our church) by Heather Beamish, spoken word artist who was a special guest for the November LoveaLIVE, to explore this theme during Lent. It will be part of the Sunday worship, the We are not Alone newsletter, and the Prayer Circle.
- Members of the WSMC are working to identify ESG members to assist with the Season of Easter - Artistry of God; God the Weaver, God the Potter, God the Quilter, God the Gardener, God the Mosaic Artist and God the Graffiti Artist.

Unglamorous Lenten Series:

UN- GLAMOROUS

A 5 WEEK STARTER COURSE ON RACE &
INEQUALITY FROM A CHRISTIAN FRAMEWORK

PROPOSED TO ESG
JAN 2021

5 WEEK OUTLINE

GOALS

- Develop congregational fluency around the matters of race and inequity
- Connect ESG with a diverse set of POC speakers to help broaden and deepen the conversation
- Curate a list of multidisciplinary resources for further engagement and education
- Support and strengthen current anti-racism initiatives at ESG

01 THE CHALLENGE: BREAKING THE SILENCE

Cast the first stone: John 8:1-12

- This is my problem; this is our problem.
- Why we are doing this work?
- The invitation.

03 THE CHANGE: THE NECESSARY WORK OF DECOLONIZATION

Jesus predicts his death. Matthew 16:21-28

- Unlearning. Blindspots.
- Privilege. Resourcing.

05 THE SURPRISE: RECIPE FOR A MIRACLE

Feeding of the five thousand. Matthew 15:29-39

- Action. Participation. Sacrifice. Faith.
- Do your part and let God do the miracle.

02 THE CONFLICT: ASSESSING THE DAMAGE

Cost of being a disciple: Luke 14:25-34

- Institutional oppression. Police violence. Exploitation. Hate.
- Glossary of terms.
- Sit in discomfort. Lament.

04 THE OPPORTUNITY: ALLYSHIP

Let the children come. Matthew 18:1-8, 19:13-14

- What is allyship? Power-sharing.
- Representation. Voices are missing.
- How to be anti-racist.

SERVICES

- Curriculum Development
- 3rd Party Liason
- Panel Moderator
- Resource Procurement for Newsletter
- Facilitation

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee Appointments:

We are delighted that **Marilyn Piotrowski** has agreed to take on the **Secretary** role on our Governing Council, bringing great talent to it. Marilyn has been active in many ESG initiatives, for years organizing the Welcome Back BBQ, more recently organizing the Seniors luncheons and, most recently coordinating with ESG Angels, Last Minutes and Pastoral Care to deliver packages of goodies and our ESG Annual Report to our seniors across the city. Given her career in project management within the financial services sector, she brings very solid organizational skills to this new role.

We are also delighted that **Maggie Wilkinson** will be stepping into the **Vice Chair** role and then the **Chair** role at the end of Susan's extended term. Of course, Maggie needs no introduction to this group. The breadth of her contributions is legend – to our music, our concerts, advocacy letters, rummage sale, good food box and all things outreach. We all know her warmth, dedication, and generosity. Her sound, stable approach will serve ESG very well in this new role.

Maggie and I are in discussions with several folks with a view to filling her M@L Outreach role.

And we are delighted that **Cathy Nolan** has joined Gord Thompson's **Finance** team, bringing to it solid executive experience within the financial services sector. Cathy was active with ESG in key roles years ago, became less active as her children were in their teens and early twenties. We uncovered her interest in becoming active once again by way of our first round of Ambassador calls last Spring.

Motions:

The Nominating Committee has endorsed **Marilyn Piotrowski** for the role of **Secretary** on ESG's Governing Council and we are seeking approval for this appointment from Governing Council.

Motioned: Seconded: All in Favor:

The Nominating Committee has endorsed **Maggie Wilkinson** for the role of **Vice Chair, then Chair** on ESG's Governing Council and we are seeking approval for this appointment from Governing Council.

Motioned: Seconded: All in Favor:

Winter 2021 Community Engagement Ambassador Initiative:

We are commencing a second round of calls to folks – both members and friends of ESG. Once again, the intent is to check in on how they are faring as COVID endures, offer a listening ear, as well as learn about their strategies for navigating the current challenges and what is lifting their spirits. It is also a great opportunity to remind folks of the many ways they can connect with ESG, talk about our re-branded website, gather feedback and, where the conversation warrants find out more about their interests and ways in which they might value engaging.

We've moved the teams around a bit. Here's who we have involved:

Ambassador Champions: Peter Wilkins, Arlene Duncan, Ken Smee, Caren Cate.

Ambassadors:

Peter's Team	Arlene's Team	Ken's Team	Caren's Team
Carolyn Woodland Gloria Van Geilswyk Gord and Pam Henderson Kathy Fletcher Judie Thompson Lenore Walters	Arlene Duncan Cathy DesBrisay Janet Walker Marilyn Piotrowski Joan Pope Bruce Pope Joanne Bee	Bronwyn Best Jim Black Lenore Aguanno Lynette Norris Magdalena Bracer	Marnie Malcolm Mary Thompson Gail Carson Connie Roden Joan Weppler Liz Hackett John Hackett Judi Healy Donna Lang

Suggestion for Future Meetings

Over the course of various discussions, it has become apparent that some individuals value being able to connect virtually as opposed to in person. While necessitated due to COVID cautions/restrictions, it is more convenient for some (less travel, can connect from the cottage/multiple locations). Some prefer the experience of meeting in person. Once COVID restrictions lift we may want to consider providing a new option for meeting with a blend of both in person and remote connection. This may make taking on GC roles more attractive, particularly for those who want to spend months of the year out of town. Of course, we would have to think through the technology implications.

Thoughts?

M&P Report:

To all staff: AJ Brant, Sarah Chapman, Shawn Grenke, Paul Hutchison, Don Parsons, Jennifer Torrens

To all independent contractors: Irina Denissova, Bryan Estabrooks, Aidan Legault, Kate Littler, Alvaro Perez, Choir Section Leads.

To volunteers providing support to maintain business continuity: Charlie Roden, John Blevins, Rick Balmer, Peter Long, Doug Dicks, Doug McWhirter, (members of the Property Committee), Maggie Wilkinson and Susan Moore (cheque signing)

From: Heather Parker, Chair of the Ministry and Personnel Committee
January 11th, 2021

As we welcome 2021, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of the restrictions related to the COVID pandemic that are in place at ESG. The church building is closed other than for building maintenance and security, limited staff access for business that cannot reasonably be performed remotely, and for the livestreaming/ recording of worship services.

Our priority is to keep everyone safe, and healthy.

To control the risk of transmission in our workplace, all staff/ independent contractors and volunteers are asked to work from home except those who need to attend the building for essential business continuity or safety and security of the building.

In accordance with public health guidelines, the maximum number of people currently permitted in the church at one time is 10. In order to ensure compliance with this requirement, please send an email to Jennifer Torrens at esgoffice@esgunited.org when you plan to be in the building, and if others will be there with you, eg. external contractors.

We continue to screen for COVID-19. All staff members/ independent contractors must complete a paper screening questionnaire each day before beginning work and provide the sheets to their supervisor. All volunteers must self-screen by asking themselves the health questions on the poster at the entrance door before entering and signing the contact tracing log inside the entrance to the building.

On January 4, 2021, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health issued new instructions to employers in the City of Toronto permitted to be open. Effective immediately, we are required to notify Toronto Public Health as soon as we become aware of two or more people who test positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day interval. As such, if you test positive test for COVID-19, and you have been in the church building in the last 14 days, you must immediately inform Jennifer Torrens, the ESG Compliance Officer.

All staff, independent contractors, and volunteers working at ESG are reminded of the following protocols:

- Do not enter the building if you have symptoms of COVID-19, or if you believe you have been exposed to anyone who has COVID-19
- Keep two metres/ six feet distance from others
- Clean your hands often, using soap and water or an alcohol-based (70%) hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue. Immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands

- Wear a face mask or covering when inside ESG unless you are in a private office alone.

Thank you for your strict adherence to these protocols. Health and Safety for all is our priority!! If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 416-429-1787.

Heather Parker

On behalf of the Ministry and Personnel Committee

Property Report for January 19th 2021 ESG Council meeting:

LED lighting project:

A tube light in the gym shorted out due to a loose connection. The contractor is coming in this week to repair and replace. In the interim the affected bank of lights has been isolated.

Building Automation System project:

Job complete and application for the IESO \$5,100 rebate has been submitted.

Driveway replacement:

Completed. Preparing the request for quote for the courtyard and ramp to Duplex portion of the project.

AV IT installation:

During installation of the new equipment a broken cable and pulley were discovered in the Sanctuary screen deployment system. This failure had gone undetected for some time and prevented the raising and lowering of the screen carriage. The required part is on order and expected to be installed within six weeks.

AV IT Task Group:

A copy of the Task Group Progress Report was sent to Council members under separate email. Chuck MacRea has joined the Task Group to help organize and document the system descriptions and training/operating manuals. We continue to meet biweekly in an effort to complete the task(s)

- The ESG system is complex, comprehensive, and of professional quality
- There is a strong need to control any changes
- It is currently highly dependent on the skills and availability of key individuals
- The goal is to make it operable by volunteers, and ESG will need to recruit them
- ESG will have a valuable "production" asset that can be marketed to outside users

Parking at ESG:

The response from Director, Permits and Enforcement - Transportation Services of the City of Toronto was a disappointment but I am following up.

Dwayne Tapp from Toronto Buildings has yet to contact me regarding the zoning of 92 Craighurst for parking. I will try again now that the Christmas break is behind us.

Outreach Committee Report: Jan 19, 2021

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice has been exploring anti racism issues, watching videos and doing some reading on the subject. Next meeting is Jan 28th.

Out of the Cold

Nothing new to report.

Advent Gifts

ESG has been very generous in their Advent Gifts giving. We have a total of over \$4000 to distribute to our partner agencies. These payments will be completed by the end of January.

Donations to Agencies

As budgeted for ESG Outreach, we have allocated \$4000 to be distributed to the following agencies this month. There will be another distribution in the spring. Decisions on which agencies to target were made based on increased need during COVID times and developing our relationship with the agencies.

In total, through Advent Gifts and our budgeted donations, the following distributions are planned:

Street Health \$1000

Massey Centre for Young Mothers \$2000

Toronto Urban Native Ministry \$1000

Fred Victor/CRC \$500

Camp Scugog \$1500

The remaining \$2000 designated for Outreach agencies will be decided in the coming week.

Good Food Box Program

The program continues to run twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG for this year. In January we will give out 22 boxes of produce to those in need. Many thanks to the team of delivery drivers who help each month: Judi Healy, Kim MacLaurin, Pam Henderson, Pat Fraser and our new volunteer, Leslie Morris!

DISMAS

We continue to support 2 Dismas members with food boxes on a monthly basis. Dismas continues to meet regularly on Zoom.

Little Free Pantry

The ESG Free Little Pantry is running well and is being used both by community members donating and those in need who are accessing items. The **Last Minutes** group has been monitoring and stocking the pantry to date. The plan is to stock the pantry with items that will not freeze easily in the cold once the weather turns icy. Socks, mitts, hats etc... are now being placed in the pantry regularly. Donations to the pantry of food and toiletry items are always welcome!

The pantry is used very regularly, being emptied almost within hours of being stocked with a modest amount of food items. There was a great community response over the Christmas holidays, but we have noticed this falling off in January. Connie is preparing a blurb to go into the Lytton Park Residents Organization newsletter and the ESG community has been asked to consider making the pantry a destination on neighbourhood walks.

Anti-Racism Discussion Group

The original discussion group continues to meet regularly every second Thursday and is enjoying difficult and rich conversation. As well, the Peace with Justice Group has been doing some reading and discussion on this topic, and the WWIT group has also committed to a book study of "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. Worship plans for Lent include a focus on this issue and individuals from these groups will be participating in discussion and reflection to engage the congregation.

Fruit for Na Me Res

Donna Lang continues to regularly take fruit donated by a local grocer to the Na-Me-Res, a shelter for indigenous men. The shelter is grateful for the fresh produce and Donna is able to maintain a much-appreciated connection there between the shelter and ESG.

NT Cluster Work

Welcome Baskets Project – the Cluster has taken on this project to supply 20 baskets per month to Streets to Homes, an organization run by the city to help people transitioning from shelters and encampments to permanent housing.

ESG will supply 20 baskets for the month of April. Each church involved in the project is taking a month. We plan to link this project to Lent and will solicit donations of kitchen/ household items from the congregation in Feb / March. Possibly an opportunity to empty some shelves of rummage items in storage?! This project will likely continue to run through the next year – perhaps becoming a regular Outreach activity twice a year?

Roehampton Hotel Shelter - here is a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) that has been formed that includes members from Manor Road and Lawrence Park churches on behalf of the cluster. A group of representatives from the Cluster and a few beyond the cluster are meeting on Zoom to determine ways in which churches can assist the shelter residents. The group met on Jan 14th to hear from Liz Tevlin, a **Street Health** representative who spoke to the issue of addictions and the homeless population. We hope to get more information out to the congregation about poverty, housing, and addiction issues in the coming months.