

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

May 18, 2021

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

Guests: Alan Walker, Jennifer Thompson.

Maggie opened the meeting with prayer.

Priorities

Project Flourish – (Sarah, Alan)

Alan Walker presented:

Budget has been submitted, to be funded by remaining PTCC and Emerging Spirit Grants. Sarah will be taking study leave next week to look at issues of Food Justice and developing programs and focus.

Community garden plans for summer include:

- building 2 more plots
- hiring 4 students + Aiden as supervisor
- working on backyard space at Flourish House to support programming
- possibility of summer camp (GO Project) later in the summer (COVID dependent)

Sarah is working on a communication from the percolating sessions around Food Ministry.

- strong enthusiasm for all demographic groups
- Patti and Donna assisting
- plan to work on Community Kitchen plans over the summer
- social media communications
- more visibility for youth and Flourish House residents.

Potential Cluster Amalgamation/ Merger (Susan, Jennifer, Paul, Peter)

Team updated Council on latest status of Application/Merger initiative where ESG is one of two churches under consideration; they presented details of the background, process, future steps etc.

Susan stressed that the name of the other congregation in running is confidential until original congregation is informed.

It was moved by Peter Wilkins and seconded by Donna MacCandlish that ESG should continue to move forward with a more detailed amalgamation plan around a possible future amalgamation/merger within the Cluster.

Motion Carried

Basement Accessible Lift project

Donna presented the proposal for proceeding with the Basement Lift project with funding from ESGs Manse Fund. The project team is seeking Council and Regional approval to proceed with the following understanding:

- Budget will not exceed \$125,000 including permits,
- Funding will come from the Manse Fund resulting in under \$6,000 impact to annual operating expenses,
- Trustees will approve this at their May 20th meeting.

Concern was expressed over impacts to the Children's and Youth Ministry facilities. It was agreed that further discussions must take place to mitigate these impacts outside of this \$125,000 budget.

Two motions were presented and discussed:

- Donna MacCandlish moved and Charlie Roden seconded that the lift project be undertaken as proposed in "Basement Lift Project Proposal" document, with costs not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Motion Carried

- Donna MacCandlish moved and Gord Thompson seconded that funding will come from the Manse Fund with approval of Trustees, not to exceed \$125,000.00.

Motion Carried

Peter will take motions to Regional Council for approval.

Cluster Update (Peter)

Eight of nine churches report positive feelings re operating under Covid restrictions. New online technology found to be uplifting.

Business Items

Minutes of April 20th meeting:

Moved by Maggie Wilkinson and seconded by Heather Parker that the minutes of April 20th 2021 meeting be accepted as written. CARRIED

Finance (Gord)

Monthly donations YTD are slightly down, positive variance on expenses due to lower costs plus government wage subsidy which ends in June. Stewardship campaign to go out in May should improve overall deficit.

M & P (Heather)

Recommendation from M&P that ESG supports Shawn's pursuit of a two-year Doctor of Music degree by the University of Alberta on a basis that fairly balances the interests of Shawn and of ESG. His employment contract will be amended to reflect the percentage of time that Shawn will be working for ESG and a continuing education allowance support. Coverage plans are being developed with the goal of being cost neutral.

Heather proposed approving the above arrangement. Maggie seconded. Carried

Aidan has asked to fulfil his Contextual placement at ESG spending 8 hours in Pastoral Care. There is no financial impact.

Heather proposed approving this placement, Rob seconded. Carried.

Property (John)

Mailbox has been vandalized again; estimates are in progress to repair the pedestal and intercom for the front entrance. The Duplex door mail slot has been opened for mail delivery and will be widened to accommodate larger than letter sized envelopes.

Closing prayer - Sarah

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Piotrowski