

**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)
November 17, 2020**

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

Guests: Christine Lawson, Jennifer Thompson, Peter Wilkins

Regrets: Hugh DesBrisay, Rob Crabtree

The meeting opened with prayer led by Marilyn Blair

Priorities

1 Stewardship Campaign - Jennifer Thompson

The focus of the 2021 Financial Campaign is to increase donations, increase donors using PAR and increase pledges. Of the registered donors 151 do not pledge, 112 are on PAR, 35 pledge but do not use PAR. Letters will be distributed shortly and then responses will be tabulated.

2. Trillium Grant

A Trillium Grant will be applied for in order to complete the access to the basement project.

3. North Toronto Cluster

Susan presented the letter from Dewi Saint congregation indicating their desire to discuss their future with different churches in the area. They will be closing and selling their building.

4. December Town Hall Meeting.

It was decided that one was not going to be booked in December but perhaps in January.

Business Items

1 Minutes

A motion to approve the October minutes was made by Marilyn Blair and seconded by Kathleen Hull.

CARRIED

2. Financial Update

The financial situation to the end of October is looking favourable to budget due to the steady income tracking and lower expenses. The Finance Team will be sending messages to those who control budgets to spend as necessary only.

3. **Paul and Sarah** review the preparations for Christmas and how they have changed due to virtual worshipping.

4. **M&P** – no report

5. **Trustees** – no report

6. **Property** – John reported that the driveway was almost complete. A cataloguing of the IT equipment is being organized.

7. Committee Report highlights

Christine Lawson is welcomed to council as the Worship and Music Rep.

Paul closed the meeting with prayer.

Chair – Susan Moore

Secretary – Marilyn Blair

Meetings

Council Meeting December 15, 2020 7-9 by Zoom

Council Meeting January 19, 2021 by Zoom

Committee reports

Children and Youth Ministry

November 17, 2020

Reverend Sarah and Kate will be delivering advent kits to families of youth and children. They will consist of candles and directions to light candles and video instructions. We are having a virtual Christmas pageant!! Reverend Sarah and Kate will distribute costumes and pageant scrips. Reverend Sarah will write the script and edit it. Very exciting!!

Also Dinner Church was a huge success. Many young families attended.

The youth group had a zoom parents evening. We discussed different opportunities for youth to participate in charitable fund raising. Also meeting for walks. Even the youth are sick of Zoom!!!
Very good PR for parents.

Community Engagement

Coffee Hour Hosting

Eight individuals have signed up to help with hosting coffee hours going forward, each taking on a couple of Sundays through till the end of January. We held a group tutorial to kick off the effort (with Peter Wilkins as 'Master Tutor') and have teamed up participating hosts with experienced mentors who have been hosting sessions over the summer and fall. Response to our invitation to participate was quick and enthusiastic, is allowing us to 'share the load', provide a learning opportunity for those involved and foster leadership.

Seniors' Update

In place of our Seniors luncheon this fall, Marilyn Piotrowski and a team of folks from New Perspectives, Last Minutes and Pastoral Care collaborated to deliver packages of baked goods to those who would typically attend our luncheons. We included a cover letter from our Pastoral Care team with colour copies of our very uplifting annual report. The response was terrific. Folks were very touched by the gesture and appreciated receiving so much news about what has and is happening at ESG. If COVID results in us cancelling the Spring Seniors Luncheon we may consider doing this again at that time.

Ambassador Calling

As previously suggested we plan to engage our Ambassador team to, again, make calls out to the broader ESG population (tentatively three times a year) to check in with folks, provide updates as to the many great things happening at ESG and, generally, keep channels of communication open. This will provide a solid opportunity to build awareness about our numerous programs and on-going developments, learn what is on people's minds and build relationships. More to follow as plans develop.

Nominating Committee Update

Discussions are underway with various individuals as potential candidates to join committees/fill vacant positions. – details to follow as we are further along.

Property Report for November 17th ESG Council meeting

LED lighting project:

Installation has been delayed in part due to hunting season. The remaining work includes replacing the Sanctuary floodlights over the chancel and those illuminating the large stained glass windows over the main entrance and the chancel.

Building Automation System project:

The installation is complete.

Driveway replacement:

The base material has been installed and compacted and the pavers are scheduled for installation November 17 and 18.

Storage room beside the gym:

As a result of the consultants report regarding the water issues in the storage room next to the gym some property committee members met on site with engineer L. Trewartha from Power Application Group Inc., (PAGI) and decided on a course of action. PAGI has been asked to prepare a proposal to deal with the water issues and provide support columns for the slab ceiling which has suffered some water damage over the years.

Trillium Grant activities:

Property Committee has been involved in the preparation of an application to the Trillium Resilient Communities Fund. We have engaged consultants and requested budget estimates to install an elevating device between the lower hall and the gymnasium. The work will only proceed if ESG is successful in receiving a grant from the Trillium Foundation.

AV IT task group:

A task group comprising: Gord Thompson, Peter Long, Doug Dicks, Rob Crabtree and John Blevins is engaged in an effort to establish requirements, operational instructions, procedures, roles and responsibilities for the ESG Audio Visual and IT systems. We are identifying all equipment and how it operates in concert with various systems to meet the needs of various programs and routine tasks performed at Eglinton St. George's United Church.

The first task is review of the Live Streaming of worship services to establish the requirements, identifying the AV and IT equipment and systems needed to fill the requirements and how those systems and players interact.

The outputs will include written procedures to run live streaming as well as establishing responsibilities and budget for each system and its ongoing maintenance.

Outreach Committee Report: Nov. 17, 2020.

Compassionate Justice:

No new info currently on CJ plans for the coming year. The group hopes to meet soon to discuss options.

Peace with Justice

Peace with Justice will be launching an Amnesty International 'Write for Rights' action in time for Dec 10, Human Rights Day, offering a link to congregation members through the weekly email. There are 10 cases featuring people in a variety of countries along with online petitions for signing, some videos and case descriptions.

Out of the Cold

Nothing new to report currently.

St. Luke's United is going ahead with meals on Wed and Sundays beginning at the end of November. ESG will be sponsoring 3 meals using funds in the Out of the Cold account, but do not plan to send volunteers.

Advent Gifts

ESG Outreach will be launching this year's Advent Gifts project via the weekly email this week. This year will be a bit different – we will be collecting new and gently used winter coats as well as financial donations for our 4 partner agencies (Massey Centre, Street Health, Fred Victor Women's Drop In, Toronto Urban Native Ministry). Any other items that are dropped off will definitely be sent to help those in need (toiletries, gift cards, winter wear, toys etc...) but we are focusing on the coats and dollars to keep things simple. The Outreach Committee will be present at ESG on Dec 2 and Dec 4 to receive coats and envelopes, and of course, donations can be made online through Canada Helps (ESG Outreach Advent Gifts) or through the mail to the church. Our goal is to collect 100 coats and raise \$5000. We hope this will be quickly met and surpassed as the need is going to be great this winter.

Also – special thanks to Marilyn Blair for her donation of socks! We will be placing some pairs in the pantry, some in Good Food Boxes for those outreach recipients and the remainder will be sent to our partner agencies for those in need. Almost 150 pairs of socks!!!

Good Food Box Program

The program continues to run twice monthly out of Maggie's garage instead of ESG for this year. This month we were able to give out 20 boxes of produce to those in need. We added a new recipient this month who learned of our program from Arlene Duncan when they were checking out the community gardens!

DISMAS

No news on Dismas plans at present. 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. We will also be able to offer some winter wear items (hats / mitts / socks) in another month. Donations to the pantry of food and toiletry items are always welcome!

Anti-Racism Discussion Group

The original discussion group continues to meet regularly every second Thursday and is enjoying difficult and rich conversation. There are similar efforts being made at Fairlawn Avenue United – they are hosting a panel discussion Nov.17 on zoom and some of our group are planning to attend. Fairlawn also plans to host a series of 6 discussions for 25 members of their congregation, and will be sharing the learning from this series with us in case we'd like to use that model.

Fair Trade Fair

Kate Littler has developed and sent out in the weekly emails a list of fair trade vendors who are offering online ordering and in some cases, home delivery. We hope the congregation will take advantage of this opportunity in their Christmas shopping!

Fruit for Na Me Res

Donna Lang has been regularly taking 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 15-20 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 has signed up to supply 5 baskets in November along with Lawrence Park CC and Manor Road. We will also supply baskets for the month of April. Each church involved in the project is taking a month. We hope to link this project to Lent. There is a **fundraising** proposal being developed right now that will provide funds for this project. The November baskets are being funded through Outreach donations.

Roehampton Hotel Shelter - There 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 next CLC meeting will be in late November and the zoom group hopes to meet again soon after that. One need that has been identified (beyond the welcome baskets mentioned above) is for some kind of drop in location near to the shelter where residents can gather safely to socialize and have a cup of coffee.

Committee News and Activities

- WSMC's chair Christine Lawson and other members of the committee continue to be actively involved in hosting the weekly Sunday Zoom coffee hours. With the assistance of Donna MacCandlish and Peter Wilkins, other members of ESG have also been recruited to assist with hosting coffee hour. As always many hands make light the work!
- Christine is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with the operation of EasyWorship in the sound booth on Sundays.
- ESG's first virtual Dinner Church (LoveALIVE) of the year was very well received. The next Dinner Church is on Sunday, November 22nd at 5:00 pm. Advance registration is required.
- There have been two Evensong services with the third being held on Thursday, December 17th – Christmas in a Minor Key. These services provide members with comfort and an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection.
- ESG's choir and leads, under the direction of our Director of Music, Shawn Grenke, continue to deliver wonderful music each week. Notable mentions: the Remembrance Day service, the 40 Screens' performance and this past Sunday's performance by the Youth Choir.
- Next WSMC is on Tuesday, November 24th to discuss plans for Black History Month (February) and the Season of Easter series - Artistry of God (April and May).