

**EGLINTON ST GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH  
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by Zoom)  
October 20, 2020**

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

Guests: Doug McWhirter, Peter Wilkins, Alan Walker, Lisa Elder, Rev. Sarah Chapman

Regrets: Caren Cate.

Donna opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Priorities**

#### **IT Review** (Gord, John)

A review needs to be done to analyse the IT system in the church. This includes the communication sector, the heating, sound, alarm and emergency connection, the responsibilities of the operators and the financial support. Completion is planned for the end of February, 2021.

#### **Marketing, Communication** (Alan, Lisa)

Project Flourish is progressing well having completed the Logo, set the strategies, values and methods of communication. The success of the current programs emphasized, the addition or extension of new programs including cultural kitchens, Love aLive, social media was reviewed. Visual awareness will be enhanced with advertising posters in Yonge Street bus shelters.

#### **Annual Meeting Follow-up** (Susan, Doug)

It was felt that the meeting was a great success having been handled on Zoom.

#### **Community Engagement** (Donna)

Donna reviewed the activities of the congregation to improve the communication with the members and community and requested any new means.

#### **North Toronto Cluster** (Susan)

The "Upper Room" has been organized and will begin shortly.

## **Business Items**

### **Minutes of previous meeting (Marilyn)**

Marilyn Blair moved and Rob Crabtree seconded (with addition of the Worship and Music report) a motion to approve the September 22 meeting. **CARRIED**

### **Finance – (Charlie)**

So far this fiscal year the finances are tracking well. All teams/people responsible for managing budgets are expected to spend with discretion. A mid year review/reforecast process will be led by finance.

### **Paul and Sarah update**

Paul and Sarah reviewed the upcoming activities in Advent and Christmas planning. The families will receive boxes of Advent materials, an online pageant is organized. Cluster service sharing is planned. Preparation for the stewardship program is underway.

### **M&P – (Heather)**

No report

### **Trustees – (Hugh)**

No report

### **Property – (John)**

The lighting installation has been delayed.

Sarah ended the meeting with prayer.

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Chair – Susan Moore

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Secretary – Marilyn Blair

### **Meetings:**

- Council meeting, November 17, 2020, 7- 9 pm via ZOOM
- Council meeting, December 15, 2020, 7-9 pm via ZOOM
- Town Hall, early December tbd

## **Committee Reports**

### **Worship, Sacraments and Music Committee Notes for Council Meeting of October 20, 2020**

#### **Committee News and Activities**

- WSMC's chair Christine Lawson and other members of the committee were actively involved since the last report to Council with the planning for reopening the church for live services with congregational attendance this fall. Although the decision was reached recently to close the sanctuary to congregational attendance during services until January, the template that has been developed will likely be used at that time for reopening, enabling the church to mobilize faster.
- WSMC is delighted that committee member Doug Reid was officially designated a Licenced Lay Worship Leader in the Shining Waters Region. Congratulations to Doug and we wish him well in his Sunday Supply role at Trinity United in Gravenhurst in November and December!

#### **Meetings**

- Committee met on October 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss:
  - Postponement of the reopening of services to in-person congregational attendance until January 2021.
  - Music plans between now and Christmas, including a potential collaboration with Fairlawn, LPCC and Leaside about a joint online lessons and carols where each church would provide some recordings for content.
  - Plans for the monthly Love Alive and Evensong ministries for the rest of the worship calendar.
  - Plans for the Advent and Christmas Eve services.
  - News on progress of the new sound and projection systems in the sanctuary.
  - A review of the successful 'Unravalled' worship series used for summer services and plans to potentially use the Advent and Christmas resources prepared by the same source.
  - Consideration of making some use of artificial flower arrangements during the period that services are closed to congregants.
  - Plans for Remembrance Day and staffing of virtual Coffee Hour following services.
- Next WSMC meeting will be in January barring any eventualities that necessitate our meeting prior to this time.

### **Outreach Committee Report: October 20 , 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 is beginning to meet to discuss issues around Anti-Black Racism, along with some members of the Wise Women in Training group. Our first discussion meeting is on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We hope to use some of the resources from the ESG website as well as others brought in by PwJ members.

### **Out of the Cold**

Out of the Cold will not be operating for now. Blythwood has sent all the clothing / supplies to shelter programs downtown. The OOTC board met on October 15 and are discussing various options for volunteers to provide aid to vulnerable people in other ways.

We have an opportunity to support a meal program that is planning to operate beginning at the end of November out of St Luke's United Church downtown (Jim Keenan, minister). They are hoping to run a meal program safely twice weekly with multiple seatings for up to 25 people per seating. ESG outreach has committed to sponsoring 3 catered meals for a total of \$1500 and will offer the option of volunteering to serve meals to anyone in the congregation who feels safe doing so. Details to come as soon as we get them!

### **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 21 boxes of produce to those in need. Some boxes were discounts from Foodshare, some were donated by Good Food Box customers, and some were paid for through ESG Outreach funds. We hope to continue to reach people in need through this program, as well as providing healthy food to customers in the community.

### **DISMAS**

No news on Dismas plans at present. We continue to support 2 Dismas members with food boxes on a monthly basis.



### **Little Free Pantry**

The ESG Free Little Pantry is running well and is being used both by community members and those in need who are accessing items. The **Last Minutes** group has been monitoring and stocking the pantry to date. We have put information flyers into mailboxes in the area immediately surrounding ESG and will continue to get the word out through various methods. We feel this pantry fills an important need in the community.

### **Anti-Racism Discussion Group**

The original discussion group continues to meet regularly every second Thursday and is enjoying difficult and rich conversation. We have extended invitations to specific groups and have had some uptake in that area (see PwJ above!). We welcome anyone who'd like more

info or who'd like to begin their own discussion group, and we are always on the lookout for more resources to share.

## **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.

## **NT Cluster Work**

The North Toronto Cluster Outreach / Social Justice leaders are meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to discuss possible ways to collaborate at Advent. One suggested project is to assemble 'Welcome Baskets' for people transitioning from shelters to permanent housing. This project is related to ongoing conversations that the Cluster and other churches in the area have been having related to the Roehampton Hotel city shelter at Roehampton and Mt. Pleasant.

We have reached out to congregation members via the weekly email asking for volunteer drivers to do 'porch pick ups' of donations but have had not much response to date.

With Advent approaching, we would like to make a plan for an ESG effort with specific desired items on a list (or \$\$) and information on where donations would be going. We hope to support our partner agencies at Advent as usual and will work with them to develop a 'wish list' of items that can be donated.

Donna Lang and representatives from ESG, Fairlawn United and Lawrence Park Community Church have recently formed a community hub called Justice Uptown. The hub seeks to enhance the community knowledge and participation with social justice, ecological justice and sustainability and to provide continued support for marginalized people in Toronto.

## **Other Outreach by Groups**

**New Perspectives** are working on a project to support the Fred Victor's Women's Shelter and are planning to feature a speaker from the shelter at a coming zoom meeting. We are grateful for their desire to reach out to support one of our partner agencies!

## **Property Report for October 20<sup>th</sup> ESG Council meeting**

### **LED lighting project:**

Installation will be completed by October 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Building Automation System project:**

Parts have been received; expect the installation to be completed by the end of October.

### **Driveway replacement:**

Looking at a November install date.

### **Hearing Assist system:**

Purchased an FM/Wi-Fi/Bluetooth based system, which allows for direct transmission to peoples hearing aids via Wi-Fi network/smart phone and Bluetooth.

For those without a smartphone and Bluetooth enabled hearing aids an FM receiver with a neck loop antenna will be provided. For those without hearing aids an FM receiver and an earphone will be provided.

### **Craighurst:**

Routine seasonal furnace maintenance completed.

### **Storage room beside the gym:**

Received the consultants report regarding the water issues in the storage room next to the gym and are formulating alternate strategies to mitigate the flooding.

## **Church Community Engagement**

### **Coffee Hour Hosting**

An invitation has been sent out to twelve individuals inviting them to host coffee hours from November 8<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. We have targeted individuals who (1) typically attend coffee hour, and (2) we believe may be interested / willing to take this on. If we are successful in engaging them this will entail each taking on a couple of Sundays. To help support the process we will hold a group tutorial to kick off the effort (with Peter Wilkins as 'Master Tutor') and team up participating hosts with experienced mentors: Christine Lawson, Jim Black and Doug Reid who have been hosting sessions over the summer and fall. This will allow us to 'share the load', provide a learning opportunity for those involved and foster leadership.

### **Seniors' Newsletter**

As we will not be able to hold a Seniors luncheon this fall, Marilyn Piatrowski and a team of folks from New Perspectives, Last Minutes and Pastoral Care will be collaborating to deliver packages of baked goods to those who would typically attend our luncheons. Knowing that seniors loved our hard copy newsletters, sent out years ago, we are creating a special newsletter updating on the many great things happening at ESG which will include pictures of our community gardens, little free pantry and more. Target delivery: end of October. If COVID results in us cancelling the Spring Seniors luncheon we may consider doing this again at that time.

## **Ambassador Calling**

As previously suggested early discussions are underway 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 can provide a solid opportunity to build awareness about our numerous programs and on-going developments, learn what's on people's minds and build relationships. More to follow as plans develop.