

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH  
MINUTES OF GOVERNING COUNCIL (by ZOOM)  
January 18, 2022

Present: Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Rev. Sarah Chapman, Charlie Roden, Donna MacCandlish, Doug McWhirter, John Blevins, Marion Axmith, Peter Wilkins, Susan Moore, Maggie Wilkinson, Cathy Nolan, Christine Lawson, Gord Thompson, Heather Parker, Hugh DesBrisay, Marilyn Piotrowski.

Regrets: Caren Cate, Kathleen Hull

John opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Priorities**

**2021/22 Stewardship Update (Cathy)**

The Stewardship campaign is effectively over; deadline for returns was Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. Net increase of \$4,000 or 4% in pledges outside of PAR, +\$16.2k or 7% increase in PAR contributions for an overall increase of \$20.3k or 6%. Thank you letters went out from Paul to all donors who increased their pledges.

Thanks to Cathy, Jennifer, Susan and Paul for their work on this.

**Leadership Discussion**

Strategic goals were defined in 2015; a refocusing exercise is needed now. Maggie led a discussion around how to improve the effectiveness of our lay leadership. Council broke into 3 sub-groups looking at:

1. What can be done to encourage new participants
2. Can we build up more information on individual skills within the ESG community
3. How can we improve the current operating model of committees and roles within.

Results will be shared in further discussions with the Nomination committee.

**Business Items**

**Minutes of Dec 14 meeting (Marilyn)**

Approval of minutes of Dec 14th meeting proposed by Marilyn, seconded by Charlie.

CARRIED

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**Sarah's Update:**

- Project Flourish has been awarded a \$20,000 grant for the next 3 years.
- Aiden Legault, student minister, will lead the confirmation class over 10 sessions. Eight youth have signed up.

**Paul's Update:**

- Started 8 week course on Trauma Informed Ministry;
- Aidan will be preaching twice in February and looking for feedback from congregation;
- Has first draft of next year's schedule from September onwards, Easter, Dinner Church etc.;
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 is Paul's 5 year anniversary at ESG. He will be entitled to a sabbatical next year, likely following Easter. Needs approval of committee one year prior.
- Worship plan for post-Easter and summer – will be addressed during study week Jan 31 – Feb 6.
- Paul expressed his appreciation for a successful Stewardship Campaign.

**M & P (Heather)**

- Met with Paul to discuss his sabbatical in more detail. There will be an update to Council in March.

**Finance Update (Gord)**

Revenue

- Contributions for December are \$141k, \$23.5k below budget, \$30k below last year; YTD of \$270k is \$31k below budget and \$50k below last year's actual. This is not good news;
- This combined with \$11k loss of rental income from COVID effect results in Revenue of \$42k under budget.

Expenses

- Utilities are below budget plus timing of some maintenance projects resulted in a positive variance of \$46k; however, this is expected to shrink.

Wage subsidy

- Charlie to apply but not expected to be significant as period did not show drop in revenue.

Fundraising

- Fundraising budgeted for \$36k

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- Heather commented on possibility of a limited Rummage Sale but not likely to raise \$30k; more information out soon. Possibly to take place in June.
- Susan is working with Caren in planning another fund-raiser, possibly to take place in May.
- Golf Day – may be possible.
- John raised opportunity for Purdy chocolate sales.

Budget was based on 6 months of COVID restrictions and 6 months without - reality was restrictions lasted longer than anticipated.

Gord stressed the importance of all committees reviewing their budgets. Maggie is reviewing with various groups in next few days.

**Flourish Update (Sarah)**

- Another online Community Kitchen is in planning;
- Next Love aLIVE will feature Ontario's first Poet Laureate;
- The ESG Cookbook initiative was launched this week led by Bonnie Joynt;
- Application submitted for funding for 5 summer staff but may not get that many;
- Position description for new Communications Coordinator (6 month position) to be posted this week.

**Outreach (Marion)**

- Judi Healy spearheading a new initiative to create small "survival kits" for the homeless or unhoused community; an article with details will appear in the newsletter. This is supported by the Last Minutes group;
- Syrian Education Fund – a button will set up for donations on the Canada Helps page replacing the Welcome Baskets tab.
- Sarah to follow up on yellow pouches created for Scott Mission as part of the GO Project but possibly not all delivered.

Sarah closed the meeting with a prayer.

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Chair – Maggie Wilkinson

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Secretary - Marilyn Piotrowski