

Governing Council Minutes March 14, 2023

Zoom Meeting

Time: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Attending: Rev. Douglas duCharme, Steve Dunk, John Ryerson, Katherine Dalziel, Vicki Stuart, Chair, Allan Hux, Tom Salisbury

Regrets: Mary-Ellen Richardson, Amanda Hancox

1. Welcome – Vicki Stuart
2. Lent Reflection – Rev Douglas duCharme
“Things seen and unseen” by Nora Gallagher
3. Guiding principles – Allan Hux
4. Approval of minutes Jan 17, 2023
Moved by Katherine Dalziel
Seconded by Allan Hux
Approved

Note: Special e-vote approval of the 2023 budget, following adjustments and discussion at the Jan 17th GC budget meeting, the budget was circulated Jan 23 and approved unanimously for presentation at the AGM.

5. Feb 11th Lansing Retreat and following GC discussion, no immediate actions required by GC
6. Financial update – circulated by Steve Dunk
Audited statements are being prepared. This is the first formal audit in several years. Non profit rules have changed for audits
7. Search Committee
Interviews are continuing to achieve a short list. . 32 applications were received.
Feb 28 the competition closed.
A decision will be needed by the end of May if a supply Minister will be needed.
8. Baptism - Douglas
Imogen is Ross and Joanne Dixon's daughter, Sylvia and Bill Dixon's grand daughter. She is a bright and mature 8 year old who has taken the initiative to approach me to talk about being baptised and becoming a member of Fairlawn.
When someone takes the baptismal vows for themselves - as opposed to being taken on their behalf by their parents/guardians - it becomes "believer's baptism" and that incorporates the confirmation step that typically follows infant baptism.

Motion that Imogen Dixon be baptised and confirmed on Easter Sunday, 9 April 2023 and become a member of Fairlawn

Moved by Allan Hux

Seconded by Katherine Dalziel

Approved

9. Governing Council Transition and appointments – Vicki Stuart

A broad , wide-ranging discussion including the need for a nominating committee, as so much resides on the Chair to do recruitment.

For the AGM slate, Amanda has offered to stay on GC as a member at large. Mary Ellen is stepping off GC.

Governing Council needs to reflect the current needs of our community of faith as we enter a new period, post pandemic and with a new Minister.

It was noted that the Fairlawn constitution is very out of date, especially since the UC Manual was revised.

It was noted that the nature of GC for such a small staff organization requires volunteer support. Flexibility in how this relationship between staff and GC is needed.

Skills are important, however, attributes like network need attention too.

Offering mentoring support to new volunteers is helpful for everyone.

10. Celebrations and volunteer recognition

Sandy and the volunteer team for Pancake Shrove “Tuesday”

Judy Langstaff for the refugee clothing drop off.

Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 16-22. GC discussed how to strengthen our thank you messaging by committee and project chairs across all of our activity. e.g., thank you cards, sharing more stories and asking why people volunteer. The National Volunteer week gives us a focal point to be intentional.

11. Reports Updates (reports were circulated in advance)

Vicki and Katherine will meet on policies and Fairlawn compliance requirements. We need to scale our ambitions on policy to our resources.

The Property Council report notes that the Fire Panel needs urgent updating. This is nondiscretionary.

Joanne has worked out how to offer the AGM as a hybrid meeting as LPC just did. Online will be able to participate and vote.

12. Dates

Next GC meetings:

Next GC will be in April – doodle poll , a live evening meeting was proposed

AGM date May 28

April 16 Pink Day event special speaker Martin Boyce with Michael Coren doing the interview 1:30pm (congregation lunch before)

Book Sale April 28 29

May 7th celebration event for Eleanor Daley (coordinator Kathy Salisbury)

All Cluster churches attending June 18, 10:30 am for special Moderator address at Rosedale United, likely a lunch in the park afterwards to mingle

Communication from GC - summary to community of faith should be restarted.

GC messaging on what we have accomplished and on changes coming - Douglas to coordinate a meeting of , MER, Vicki, John

13. Guiding principles review of meeting – Allan Hux , we missed absent friends

14. Adjournment – moved by John

Appendix

Volunteer Appreciation Week April 16-22

Volunteering Weaves us Together

Let's celebrate our individual and collective actions in creating a strong, interconnected, and vibrant community! Volunteering weaves us together, strengthening the fabric of our community by sharing our time, talent and energy to support one another.

#NVW2023 #WeavingUsTogether

The National Volunteer Week theme for 2023 is Volunteering Weaves Us Together. This reveals the importance of volunteering to the strength and vibrancy of our communities through the interconnected actions we take to support one another. These diverse forms of sharing our time, talent and energy strengthen the fabric of our community.

Through volunteering we experience our interconnectedness, making our lives more meaningful. Getting involved in various ways, we find friendship, develop trust, and link our relationships. Threading these connections, we come to belong as we contribute towards the same goals.

Like each individual thread makes weaving stronger, every volunteer's experience, perspective, and abilities add to our collective resilience. Woven together from coast to coast to coast, volunteering reinforces our ability to grow, thrive, and create change within our community, province, and country.

Knowing our volunteer contributions are valued and meaningful creates a greater sense of purpose and dedication. From helping build a home, cleaning up a park, or coaching a sports team to cooking for an ill friend, checking in on a neighbour, or helping a stranger cross the street, each action we take impacts our community's overall wellness, now and for future generations.

During National Volunteer Week 2023, we celebrate our collective impact: through our kindness, generosity and commitment to volunteering, we weave our lives together.

IDEAS & THOUGHT-STARTERS

Have fun! Activities can be short or one-day only. Don't feel obligated to fill the whole week or create multi-day

activities. Similarly, booths and displays may only need to be set up for an hour or two to be effective. As mandates continue to shift consider more virtual, or a socially distanced celebration.

- Encourage your team to write personalized thank you cards to volunteers who support your organization.

- Reach out to your local government officials to inform them of your community's planned activities.

Encourage them to make a declaration, or to post on social media to help raise awareness for all the work your volunteers do.

- Survey your volunteers ahead of time and ask why they volunteer. Then, use their answers to create inspirational graphics you can share throughout the week on social media. These can also be used to make posters at appreciation events, or just hang up around your office.

- Find out your volunteer's language of recognition so you can plan meaningful recognition activities.

- Write a reference letter for a volunteer who is applying for a job, internship, or school program.

- We don't always see volunteers in action. Ask volunteers to share stories about their fellow volunteers.

Are they constantly impressed by someone's positive attitude? Have they seen a volunteer diffuse a challenging situation?

<https://www.volunteer.ca/index.php?MenuItemID=478>