

Governing Council Minutes April 25, 2023

Time: Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 7:00 pm Fairlawn in person

Join Zoom Meeting – hybrid meeting Doug Crozier joined on Zoom

Attending: Rev. Douglas duCharme, Steve Dunk, John Ryerson, Katherine Dalziel, Vicki Stuart, Allan Hux, Mary-Ellen Richardson (Chair), Amanda Hancox, Sandy Giles, Tom Salisbury

Guest Doug Crozier

Regrets:

1. Welcome – Mary Ellen
2. Reflection – Rev Douglas duCharme. Drawing a connection to the paradigm shift of the enlightenment to the last 100 years as religion stopped being the centre of lives, referencing a New York Times article “Lots of Americans Are Losing Their Religion. Have You?” <https://nyti.ms/41JFSpj> The paradigm shift makes churches like Fairlawn more important as we listen and adapt.

This is important as we emerge from COVID, and we are expecting some shocking statistics of church closure BUT there is a lot more going on here....and this is of huge importance to us understanding what it looks like for building community. There is more here than what meets the eye, and it bears some understanding.

3. Guiding principles – Amanda
4. Approval of minutes March 14, 2023

Moved by Vicki

Seconded by Allan

Approved

5. Search Committee Update – Doug Crozier

The reach: the Search Committee has done extensive work to find candidates.

Greetings notice referred to the Feb 28 deadline and 32 candidates at that time.

Church Hub review to reach out to some others

Contacted other Regional councils across the country

Doug updated GC on the process following the guidelines of Regional Council.

Onboarding will be supported by the Search Committee.

Doug, as chair, stated that the “Search Committee strength has “incredible people”. Doug left the meeting. Doug Crozier left the meeting

Contingency plan for Minister coverage – Amanda

Jean Ward's part time contract would be renewed for Sept to December.

Fairlawn is closed August. July coverage is with Associate Ministers, Rob and Ambury.

Pastoral charge supervisor needs to be designated during the interim period by the Region if there was a gap. Doug and Vicki to contact Dale at the Region to clarify process if we have a gap.

If this motion is activated , the budget implications would need separate GC approval.

Motion: If by May 15th, the Search Committee has not got a viable candidate for a new Minister, we support Doug Crozier entering into discussions with the appointed Pastoral Relations officer of the Region to make a request that Jean Ward have a contract to stay with Fairlawn in the period September to December 2023.

Moved by Amanda

Seconded by Kathryn

Approved

6. Discussion: request for feedback: Leadership and Governance– all

MER introduced , the GC transition of GC this AGM and how to present.

-Topic of leadership continuity / vision continuity raised at February retreat

-particularly important given we are on the cusp of calling a new Minister

-action items coming from the approved COFP are still in place related to finding tenants

-there are UCC bylaw defined requirements with respect to GC composition, including Chair HRR and Chair GC. Both positions will be vacant as of May 2023.

-thought prudent to highlight this situation on April 30th, prior to the AGM on May 28, 2023, so that congregants can consider their interest in stepping forward.

- review of the job descriptions (circulated pre meeting)
- review of Operations Committee vis a vis GC (Vicki Stuart)

We have done a lot of the forward thinking work through Fairlawn Forward work, the COFP statement. Now we are at a point of stasis relative to future visioning and need to execute on our plans. The concept is that the Operations Committee would be made up of the minister, Chair of GC, treasurer, PC, HRR. So as to take care of the operating matters related. This is a quick response unit that can function in between the quarterly GC meetings.

The operations committee powers are delegated to the operations committee but limited so that cannot make material deviations to the budget, mission statement, lay personnel, or mediating debates arising between missional activities between the three ES, EB, EA. Also, trying to bridge and help a new Chair, GC to give comfort that can call a meeting quickly and have a responsive

group and bounce an idea; and assist with the agenda setting for GC meeting.

Any of the members could call a meeting, and 3/5 constitute quorum.

General comments:

Coming out of covid, a lot of energy or activity...get on the wave, get on your surf board and see where it goes...it's kind of an exciting time. Skill is being good Christians and talking with people, the rest of this is just business stuff, it's not special. We think we can make a difference and share values and work together. Looking for people who want to support that. We have done a lot of heavy lifting on the heavy BS stuff, and the dealing with the minister...all the heavy lifting is done.

7. Motion for approval: Signing authority for newcomer accommodation – Vicki Stuart

Background for motion in support of an indemnity to be given to John Cowan below.

The team supporting Emmanuel Ntirengaya was (miraculously) successful in locating accommodation that was affordable within the suggested budget, acceptable to Emmanuel and near FAUC. John Cowan agreed to act as guarantor in the rental application to assist in securing the apartment. The lease that was provided was on the mandated Ontario government standard form of lease but showed John Cowan and Emmanuel both as tenants. After review between John Cowan and Vicki Stuart, John determined that he was agreeable to execute the lease provided he was “backstopped” by FAUC. John was willing to take the leap of faith that this would be forthcoming. John did a review with Emmanuel and followed the Ontario government handbook to do so. John will be liable for any rental default not just during the first year of the lease but until the lease is terminated. Additionally, John can be liable for any breach of the other covenants in the lease, e.g., if damage is caused by Emmanuel to the premises. The lease requires that a tenant liability policy be put in place and steps are underway to obtain that policy. It will be important that Emmanuel be adequately instructed in the rules and behaviours of the apartment premises.

Motion: That Fairlawn Ave United Church provide a full indemnity to John Cowan in respect of his obligations concerning a lease for Unite 8B, 3210 Yonge Street, April 21, 2023 such indemnity to be in place prior to May1, 2023. The signature by two officers of the church shall be sufficient.

Moved by Vicki Stuart

Seconded by John Ryerson

Approved

8. Information item: Financial update –Steve Dunk

The March results were circulated , \$21,000 ahead of plan largely due to timing . Audit nearly done. Capitalizing assets for the past two years will be a change requiring depreciating capital improvements. The audit is clean.

The Treasurer recommends we do another year of full audit and then reassess if we need to continue. GC thanked Steve for the effort to get this audit done with all he changes in accounting since the last audit.

There is a procedural issue to resolve on the audited statements - The Treasurer will contact the auditor.

9. AGM Agenda: re:

New members to date

- new GC member Judy Langstaff (Member at Large)- Vicki to introduce & welcome Judy
- new Trustee Gordon Pitts , Tom to introduce & welcome Gord
- Following discussion on the implications if there is an additional meeting to approve a new Minister, it was agreed that John and Vicki would coordinate logistics with advice from Douglas regarding the service that Sunday

10. Deferred: Motion for approval: Social Justice

11. Celebrations and volunteer recognition : comments, observations, verbal updates

Easter celebrations

IDOP event

Refugee team

Thanks to Faith in the Common Good for support of our garden project

12. Deferred: Reports Updates (reports were circulated in advance)

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

13. Dates of note:

- April 30 congregational zoom call on governance/volunteer leadership
- May 7th celebration event for Eleanor Daley (coordinator Kathy Salisbury)
- AGM date May 28 1:30 (zoom)
- Next GC will be; June 13 GC meeting; Amanda will Chair September 12 on Zoom
- June 11 Pride Service with guest speaker
- June 18, 10:30 am :All Cluster churches attending for special Moderator address at Rosedale United, likely a lunch in the park afterwards to mingle
- June 25
 - De-covenanting services scheduled for Douglas du Charme and Jean Ward,
 - UC attendees at the Pride parade

14. Guiding principles review of meeting – Amanda

15. Adjournment and social gathering – moved by John
