

## **Governing Council Minutes October 17, 2023**

**Time: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 4:00pm Hybrid ~ In person/Zoom**

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Attending: In-person: Vicki Stuart, Chair, John Ryerson, Amanda Hancox, Allan Hux, Judy Langstaff, Tom Salisbury, Rev. Cameron Watts , Steve Dunk ;  
Regrets: Zoom: Amanda Hancox

1. Guiding Principles – Judy Langstaff
2. Rev. Dr. Cam Watts opening remarks:

Discussion paper distributed <https://www.npr.org/2023/09/10/1198509609/the-search-for-a-church-that-isnt-a-church>

A robust discussion building on the Fairlawn Forward work and the focus on Ministerial priorities for welcoming in the broadest sense. The article focused on how we are seen by outsiders, not just by ourselves.

Questions that fed the discussion:

What does it take to engage?

What do you want to engage in?

What do people want and what do we have to offer?

Leading from the strengths within our community of faith networks and relationships.

What could Fairlawn be?

3. Approval of Minutes Sept 12, 2023

Moved by Steve Dunk

Seconded by Judy Langstaff

Approved

4. Indigenous Church Remit – carry forward item

Since a Governing Council motion is not required until March. It was felt that this was an opportunity to engage the community of faith in why the United Church and Indigenous Church are moving on this Remit for governance.

It was agreed that Cam would undertake a service in January or February to address our right relations as a Church. Also , that some of the resource materials could be put in Greetings in advance.

Shining Waters has passed the Remit. Fairlawn GC had 4 attendees at the Shining Waters presentation. Allan Hux and Cam are voting members and supported the motion.

5. Negotiating Committee Report – Steve Dunk

There has been a limited response despite a lot of work by the committee to negotiate with prospects. We have been advised that the market has changed. Institutional rents have come down in Toronto. The Committee has reduced its expectation by half at this point and taken the following action on the gym where there is some market potential.

A new additional listing agreement will be sent to the Trustees for approval that would split off the gym as an exclusive space.

6. Board Leadership

Vacancies: Chair, Explore Spirituality, Experience Belonging, Stewardship - deferred

7. Financial Update:

Expenditures are in line or down a bit, revenue is down, due to rental projections that have not materialized for the latter half of the year and a drop in givings

Two legacy gifts are in process.

It was suggested that we time our campaign with Nov 28 Giving Tuesday to take advantage of the broad promotion for giving in the Christmas season.

The Nov 14 meeting GC meeting will focus on the revenue challenges and priorities.

8. Gibimishkaadmin update - John Ryerson

The five year program, ran six years due to the pandemic. Fairlawn committed \$5000 per year. The last event will be the re-union in February. Moderator Carmen Lansdowne went on the trip this past August. Due to costs of transportation from the Yukon to Labrador, an additional \$5000 has been requested. (Rosedale has made their commitment) At the time of writing it remains unclear how the program will be renewed.

GC recognized the Social Justice Committee and its members consisting of Kathy Salisbury, Jannie Mills, Sandy Giles, Byrne and John Ryerson. The committee subsequently approved the Fairlawn contribution of \$5000 will come from the Social Justice Fund and have directed the Trustees to release the funds.

9. Reports:

Finance Update delivered verbally

Trustees Report – Tom Salisbury No report, the Trustees met in October

Property – Vicki Stuart distributed – note, 2 reports: the October minutes and a report to Trustees concerning the upgrade to the fire panel and code work over the last several years.

Embrace Action distributed calendar

Pastoral Care – distributed

10. Celebrations: John Wettlaufer retiring from Property Council

11. Other business:

Operating committee terms of reference

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL as presented in April**

A separate Operations Committee may meet more frequently than Governing Council, as needs arise. The Committee will manage and address pressing Fairlawn operational business, and will operate within the parameters of the Community of Faith approved annual budget.

The Operations Committee supports and enable the leadership of the church.

1. An Operations committee shall be established consisting of the minister , the Governing Council Chair , the Chairs of each of the Finance Committee (i.e. the treasurer), the Property Committee and the HR&R Committee. The committee can draw on the expertise of other Governing Council members and beyond if necessary and depending on circumstances.
2. The Operations Committee shall meet at the call of Chair or any other member of the Committee. The Committee will establish a Chair and minute taker for any called meeting.
3. Overarching Purpose:  
Any decision that may be made by the Governing Council, the finance property or the HRR committee can be delegated to the Operations Committee with the exception of:
  - Material deviations from the approved budget;
  - Changes to the church missional direction;
  - Changes in lay personnel;
  - Mediation of competing debates relating to the missional activities between spirituality, outreach and belonging initiatives.Other Purposes:
  - The Operations Committee is to assist to prepare the agenda for Governing Council meetings and prepare questions for consideration by the Governing Council.
  - It will also serve as an immediate sounding board for the Chair, or any member of the Committee if time-sensitive issues arise.
4. Quorum: We will ensure that 3 out of the 5 people Operations Committee representatives need to be present if any matters requiring a vote are considered. It is further required that one of either the Minister or the Chair of Governing Council be present when such a vote is taken. At all times, we will ensure that the people are present for the voting that are specific to the topic of discussion.
5. The Chair's comments at the start of each Governing Council meeting will include a report on activities of the Operations Committee since the previous Governing Council meeting.

### 12. Upcoming dates:

Cluster meeting Oct 24th

Next GC Nov 14 14 live

### 13. Motion for adjournment

Moved by John Ryerson