

## Fairlawn Governing Council September 17, 2024

Agenda/Minutes

Zoom meeting

Attending: John Ryerson, Rev Cameron Watts , Judy Langstaff (Chair), Steve Dunk, Allan Hux, Vicki Stuart, Tom Salisbury, Amanda Hancox

1. Opening Prayer – Rev Cameron Watts
2. Guiding principles - John
3. Minutes of for approval May 21, 2024 - see appendix  
Moved Amanda  
Seconded Allan  
Carried
4. How was your summer? Wonderful stories were shared
5. Business brought forward

Hiring Update for new hires – the team is in place

Shining Waters AGM Proposal and St Lukes Any follow-up

Vicki proposed an amendment that was adopted, Sandy, Cam, Allan and Vicki were in attendance. The amendment resulted in our decision to withdraw our motion , however Cam was able to address Saint Luke’s challenges to the attendees.

There will be a Committee interim report by the end of October.

It was noted that the Shining Waters Committee is all Executive or former, no one from the outside to bring a different perspective.

To be continued

Saintt Luke’s has a part time Minister two Sundays a month. They are supposed to do a strategic plan, the current funding is a loan. Vicki reported on some other churches that have had challenges working with Kindred.

6. Affirm proposal - Amanda (see appendix)

Following the model of seniors and youth drop in from Birtchcliff. Facilitator. Paisley, spoke at our Pride service, e are looking to hire her or someone like her to run our program. ie contracting School bookings dropping off due to politics. Safe places for young people are really needed.

Applying to Rowntree Foundation for funds, deadline on one is Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Running 6 months of drop in to determine long term feasibility including financial and volunteer support.

Moved that GC support the Affirm action plan as laid out in the appendix to the agenda for the Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 2024 meeting.

Moved Vicki

Seconded by Steve

Carried

Motion to authorize SJ Committee to spend up to \$15,000 on this project.

Moved Amanda

Seconded John

Carried

#### 8. Communications protocol for online presence – Cam

Appended for information. Approval deferred.

#### 9. Regular item going forward - Council recruitment

Some recruiting underway for Explore Spirituality and Experience Belonging. Recruitment will be easier when the vision implementation is clear. GC discussion in October.

#### 10. Reports

Finance appended and circulated – Steve Dunk

Rental situation – the lessor is under their goal in students, they will not use lunch area, so slight reduction in income

The other rental option previously discussed has reopened.

Trustees – Tom Salisbury

Jennifer Duchesne arranged for an updated insurance valuation, on which our next renewal will be based.

\$175K in trustee funds have moved to operating so far in 2024, in part to cover roof and HVAC renovations.

Despite this, trustee fund balances are up overall in 2024.

Property -appended and circulated

Update: East stairs into assembly hall - architect solution being worked on

HR&R – no report

Explore Spirituality - no report this meeting

Embrace Action

A plan for the year through to June has been prepared with Cam's input.

As a condition of our two years of funding for the gardens we have submitted a blog for Faith in the Common Good website.

There was discussion on youth engagement opportunities

#### 11. Future dates:

Moving GC meetings to in person - discussion?

Hybrid option agreed on as required but preference for in person.

Governing Council :

Oct 27, Nov 19, Jan 14, March 18, June 17

With a short AGM meeting to be added

#### FYI on other regular meetings

Property -> Monthly: 2nd Tuesday 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Explore Spirituality -> Monthly: 3rd Wednesday 4:00pm - 5:00pm

HR&R -> Bi-monthly: 1st Thursday 3:45pm - 4:45pm

Pastoral Care -> Bi-monthly: 3rd Wednesday 7:00pm - 9:00pm

#### Other business

Vicki advised of a tension between her position as chair of property council and providing legal services. GC agreed that when the work required legal services that it should be sent to our lawyers

#### 12. Motion for adjournment – John Ryerson

## Appendices

Enhancing Fairlawn's Affirm Commitment Unity in Diversity, a 2SLGBTQIA+ research initiative Context

Over the 2021/22 period, the Affirm Ministry has become active after several years of dormancy. Education sessions were held to support our community's understanding of the 2SLGBTQIA+ ("the queer" ) community, and the group hosted the only non TDSB GTA event for the International Day of Pink. Through these initiatives, we believe that our community of faith gained a deeper understanding of the types of challenges this queer community faces, and the types of supports that are available. At the congregational meeting on May 14, 2022, on Assessing Our Future Options and Directions, the Fairlawn Forward Team put forward three proposals. The proposal that garnered the greatest support from our community of faith was for an enhanced Affirm program. As Kevin noted in his presentation, " Fairlawn could become a beacon of safety and support in North Toronto by creating a safe space for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and their allies." There is passion and energy to move this vision forward, for Fairlawn to be that beacon in our broader neighbourhood. In May 2022, we proposed that we would look to partner with civic organizations already skilled in supporting this community, offering opportunities to expand our networks. Over the past year the Affirm Team has been doing just that. We have had many meetings with Pflag (Pflag promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, queer, & two spirit people, and their families); Planned Parenthood Toronto (their TEACH program is a peer-based youth anti-homophobia/biphobia/transphobia education program); and Birchcliff Bluffs United Church regarding their Rainbow Community Places program (RCP provides a safe(r) space for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and seniors through drop-in programs offering fun, educational presentations and sharing a meal together). Each of these organizations has expressed their support and are ready to collaborate with us on this initiative. Why this research? Initial study done as part of the Fairlawn Forward work indicated that one of the demographic segments in our North Toronto geographic area with unmet needs is the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Queer youth, especially, struggle for safety, acceptance, freedom from bullying, and much more. Parents and grandparents similarly must face the challenges of acceptance, and support for their loved ones. There are fewer locations where queer youth can get information and support – we have heard this from Planned Parenthood, Pflag and Lumenus. Planned Parenthood has seen a drastic drop in TDSB requests for their workshops, and Lumenus has recently moved their queer drop-in program from Yonge and Eglinton to the Gay Village. At the same time police report that hate crimes are on the rise and the queer community is often the target. These young people need a safe space to just be themselves and discover who they are becoming?

What the Enhanced Affirm Ministry initiative could include The Affirm Ministry would like to enhance its activities in two ways:

- Providing information/advocacy workshops/panels/forums to which we would invite as many in our Community of Faith, and the broader community who find this useful. These events would be done in concert with our partner organizations, such as Pflag and Planned Parenthood.
- An after school queer drop-in program for youth ages 12-19, which would be modelled after the successful program run by Rainbow Community Places since 2017. Next steps to support successful launch of these activities: We would like to do research to validate need ("demand"), and alternative service providers ("supply") in our geographic area. We believe that we need to do a 'Proof of Concept' to assess:

- what programs/services would be beneficial from the point of view of both parents and potential youth

participants, • who the beneficiaries will be, • what other programs and services are available in our neighbourhood (including at schools), and • what service delivery model is most sustainable. The Affirm Team is planning to apply for funding from the United Church Foundation's Rowntree Scholarship Fund for research that explores, gathers, and reflects on new expressions of the United Church of Canada in our changing social context. We will also apply for a Vision Fund Seed grant and we are open to discussing other funding opportunities. This research will include networking, outreach to local schools and PTA groups, the running of pilots to assess interest in participation; a survey of youth; Planned Parenthood workshops for youth; a Pflag panel discussion open to the public; and most importantly a series of pilot up to twice monthly drop-ins for queer youth with dinner and programming. We have been in discussion with Planned Parenthood about their ability to deliver part of the program content of interest to youth, as defined in their TEACH program. We intend to model the drop-in on the already established and successful youth program run by Rainbow Community Places out of Birchcliff Bluffs United Church in Scarborough. To deliver this program, we would contract with their Program Coordinator, Paisley Sears, to run the drop-ins as well as assist us with general research, outreach, and networking. You may remember Paisley speaking about the RCP program at our Pride Service in June. The planned timeframe for the research initiative is November 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025. We will then assess our findings and determine how (and frankly if) we will move forward. Budget and our request for support from the Social Justice Fund Our overall budget for the seven months includes our contract with Rainbow Community Places, an assistant for the drop-in program, evening custodial services (required by Fairlawn), food and program costs. The overall expenses are expected to be \$30,000 – \$35,000. We are not able to request more than half of the project costs from the UCC Foundation, therefore our request to the Social Justice Fund is for \$15,000.

## **Minutes for GC May 21 2024**

On zoom

Attending: John Ryerson, Rev Cameron Watts , Judy Langstaff (Chair), Steve Dunk, Allan Hux, Vicki Stuart, Tom Salisbury

Regrets: Amanda Hancox

1. Opening Prayer – Rev Cameron Watts
2. Guiding principles - John
3. Minutes of for approval March 19 and April 9 - see appendix

Moved John  
Seconded Vicki  
Carried

4. Business brought forward

Hiring Update: Mid June admin support up to 13 hours per week, contracted with a team for digital starting June 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. Shining Waters Proposal

It will be on the AGM agenda. There will be a townhall held by the Region May 29<sup>th</sup> with 5 minutes to present .

Trinity St Pauls is sending a Council motion of support as has Bloor St.

6. Approval of 2024 budget as circulated

Moved by Vicki Stuart  
Seconded by Steve Dunk  
Carried

7. Auditors Report has been delayed for additional technical information. The formal statements will be presented in the fall if not received by May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Moved to approve the draft audited financials as presented to Governing Council on May 21<sup>st</sup>

Moved by Steve Dunk  
Seconded by Allan Hux  
Carried

8. AGM Agenda appended

Motion for constitutional change for adherents

“Motion to approve that people who are not full members may be elected to Governing Council, provided a majority of the members of Governing Council are full members and regional council's approval is obtained.”

Moved by John Ryerson  
Seconded by Steve Dunk  
Carried

9. Moved that the AGM agenda be approved as edited

Moved by John Ryerson  
Seconded by Steve Dunk

10. Property expenditure approval to replace HVAC over the Kimmel Room

Researched and costed by the Committee and reviewed with the Trustees. Fully researched by PC, quotes received, trustees informed, work totals about \$98,000. There will be some improvement to our energy efficiency.

Motion to approve the replacement of the HVAC system and the roof over the Kimmel room and forward the approval to the Trustees

Moved by Vicki Stuart  
Seconded by Allan Hux

11. Reports - none

12. Other business:

For information –there may be a need to support rent for our refugee sponsor. Currently John Cowan is co-leaser with Fairlawn’s backing.

13. Future dates:

GC Sept 17, Nov 19

Jean Ward celebration June 23<sup>rd</sup> , John to contact Amanda

14. Fairlawn’s Funding Principles – John Ryerson

15. Motion for adjournment – John Ryerson