

Meeting Summary 11/01

November 1, 2023 / 6:15pm / Zoom Meet

AGENDA

1. Senior Leadership Update
2. Financial Review
3. Marketing
4. Miscellaneous

NOTES

As is customary, the first part is a check in with everyone and James B, as board co-chair shared a line from the Talmud for the group to reflect on *“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly now, walk humbly now. It was never intended that you do all the work. But neither must you abandon it.”*

After everyone shared where each one was at with all that was happening in the world, the meeting opened with a prayer, asking God for guidance in the work we are called to do, and to bestow upon us the ability to make decisions from a place of compassion, understanding and humility.

1. Senior Leadership Update:

The 50th Anniversary concert was a huge success and gave the congregation the opportunity to honor our history and celebrate the work, e.g. fight for justice and equality, we’ve done so far. In connection with our Refugee Program, the Senior Pastor (SP) talked about the unique position MCC Toronto holds as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder for the Government of Canada in helping refugees vetted by the UNHRC to get to Canada. The SP also believes it is important that the congregation fully understand what we’re hoping to achieve, and how our work for the refugees connects to our broader work as a church. The SP would like to propose an orientation/education session first with the board to help us be in a better position to talk to other congregants about the refugee program, followed by a session for the congregation.

The SP shared that there are plans to assist the Queer Muslim Network with their need for a space to pray and worship together. With the launch of the Rev Dr Brent Hawkes Interfaith Chapel, this plan would allow us to be “faith in action.”

2. Financial Review:

A draft of the 2024 proposed budget was presented, with the following points: the five different funds where our monies sit and the difference between restricted and unrestricted funds, a marked decrease in sustained giving, Pride and Christmas Eve events are no longer

seen as big fundraising events since the recent numbers do not reflect what they have once been in the past. The final version will be presented at the December meeting.

3. **Marketing - our Location as an Asset:**

A short discussion on some ways to further leverage our church as a working asset. Might we consider positioning our location as a highly desired destination space (beautiful new social hall, an excellent industrial kitchen, light filled meeting spaces) to event management companies; or be featured in blogTO, or be included as part of the showcase tours for Open Doors.

4. **Miscellaneous:** Preparations for the installation of the SP sometime in the New Year / early 2024.

NEXT MEETING

December 13, 2023