

April 7, 2020

Mississauga Tele Town Hall

The City of Mississauga held its second Tele Town Hall on Wednesday, April 8 at 7 p.m. The first one was on March 20. They addressed resident concerns about COVID-19 and updated the public about what the City is doing to protect their health and safety. Residents asked questions to panelists from the City of Mississauga, Peel Region Public Health, Trillium Health Partners and Peel Region Police, and City Councillors and senior City staff.

The link to both audio recordings are here: [Mississauga Town Hall link](#)

Avoid the crowds – take advantage of seniors' hours

As senior citizens are the most vulnerable of our demographics, many grocery stores and pharmacies have offered designated shopping hours for seniors. For local stores such as Metro, Loblaws, Battaglia's and Cousin's Market, this priority shopping time is 7 to 8 a.m. so you will need to set the alarm! If you are a senior, check with your local store about their seniors' hours and think about shopping at that time.

As with any external excursion where touching of surfaces is unavoidable, handwashing or the use of a hand sanitizer is a good practice when returning home. Most importantly avoid touching your face before washing your hands. Cleaning reusable plastic coated shopping bags with a disinfectant wipe will also help reduce the spread of germs.

Committees are busy behind the scenes

While the church building is not open, your Council is ensuring that the business of the church continues without interruption. Council has continued to meet and conduct votes by email and phone. Our church committees are moving forward with planning and projects. Here are some highlights:

Community Hub

As part of its outreach to the Clarkson community, the Community Hub is pleased to report that Christ First is supporting a local family who needed interim housing. The church's apartment was offered to a family chosen by a selection committee based on their need and fit with our church community. Michael and Maria moved into the apartment at the end of March. They will be following all our church's COVID-19 protocols currently in place. In addition, they will be assisting Jessie Kennedy with some cleaning tasks around the church to help us stay on top of our cleaning protocols. We welcome Michael and Maria and are pleased to share our abundance with them in these difficult times.

Clarkson Music Theater, our longest standing, community hub member, "user of space" has, notwithstanding the curtailment of all active shows and the attendant loss of revenue, made a donation to Armagh House based on a recent plea Armagh sent out for funding for computers. The families they support are in complete isolation and do not have the

opportunity even for web-based family connections as the communal computer room had been shut down. Clarkson Music Theater has asked that rent paid for the spring concert be credited to future rentals rather than being returned. We are proud to have such groups as Clarkson Music Theatre as members of our community.

The Worship Committee has been reaching out to all the volunteers who support our church services to have a friendly chat and make sure everyone is doing OK during this period of social isolation. They will also be looking for volunteers who may want to participate in the Sunday on-line services as readers. Some work was also done on widening the chancel stairs to make them safer and more functional.

Property Committee reports that renovation of sanctuary steps, Morar's office have now been completed and the Assistant Minister and Music Director's offices will be finished this week.

The UCW General Meeting will be rescheduled to the fall with hopefully the same speaker.

The Outreach Committee is keeping in touch with its members through e-mail. We are continuing to ensure groups that are much in need of funds during this crisis receive support.

Here is a brief report from the Compass: Compass staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly to revamp the operation to focus on the health and safety of staff, volunteers and clients; mitigate the spread of COVID 19 and maintain food supplies for our clients.

In the past three weeks, the Compass has served 1047 individuals in 452 households. The number of clients is quickly increasing. Donations are coming in and we are keeping the steam up in our campaign efforts. We recognize we are at the early stages of this calamity and we anticipate further increases in demand and further dwindling of resources.

Our most vulnerable are our clients without a home. We currently have 30 community members that we know of, in this circumstance. We are working with agencies, the city and funders to mitigate the situation for these folks. Examples include: gift cards for Tims, McDonalds, and Shoppers Drug and Dollarama where folks can get hot drinks, personal care products and prescription drugs. Efforts are underway to secure some shower and washroom facilities as well.

Non-perishable goods dropped off in the bin on Mike Giguere's porch at 1942 Barsuda Drive are good. Money is even better. Easy to donate on line at the compass.ca or drop cheques made out to the Compass in our mailbox or, better yet, adjust your PAR and allocate funds to the Compass.

The Call Coordinating Committee is working on the Living Faith story - a key component of the Community of Faith package needed to call a new minister.

The Recruitment Committee has work well under way to line up a Search Committee. Several have already expressed a willingness to serve. Recruitment will proceed quickly once a Community of Faith profile has been approved.

The Communications Committee is multi-tasking in many areas. The WIFI at Clarkson Campus was problematic and could not be corrected, so a more robust system was installed in its place. The external sign lost its operating system and was corrected by the reinstallation of the firmware. We have been working diligently on our new website which should be released in the next few weeks.

Help spread the news

If you have Christ First friends who don't have access to internet or email, please help us spread the news contained in these emails. You can help us keep them up to date. Thank you!

Social Distancing Smiles

