

## **Affirming Minutes – Physical Challenges, April 27, 2025**

Good morning.

This morning we'd like to shine a light on a few people with physical challenges who have made contributions to their country, community and our community of faith.

45 years ago this month, on April 12 1980, Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope when he dipped his artificial leg in the Atlantic Ocean near St. John's Newfoundland. While he was not able to finish that run himself, he had set in motion the framework for an event, The Terry Fox Run, that ignited cancer research in Canada, raising more than \$850 million since 1980, and bringing hope and health to millions of Canadians.

Oshawa native, Mike Shoreman, is an advocate for youth mental health who has crossed all 5 Great lakes on a paddle board in order to raise money and advocate for better treatment for youth struggling with mental health challenges. Mike was inspired to do this work after a health crisis impaired his mobility, vision and hearing and impacted his own mental health. In January of this year, Mike received the King Charles III Coronation medal for his advocacy work.

Here in our Kingsview community of faith, Glenn and Diane Liscombe participated in an Affirming panel discussion in 2022, sharing their experience of inclusion at Kingsview considering Glen's mobility challenges. One challenge they shared was that the doors to our building were not fully accessible. That concern was also shared by others in our community of faith with mobility challenges. Late last year an anonymous member of our Kingsview family, sparked by concern for those with accessibility needs trying to use our church, donated funds to have the front entrance doors converted to being fully automatic. Council also applied for and received a grant which has helped us make the Upper Room and gym entrances secure and accessible. Our Property team has been fully engaged in getting these upgrades implemented. And now with the help of the whole Kingsview family and the Anniversary 'butterfly' fundraiser, we will have funding to start improving accessibility inside our building by creating a more accessible pathway from the sanctuary to the upper & fellowship rooms, the elevator and the gym. As funding allows, there is also a plan to improve the accessibility of the washrooms on our upper floor and off the gym. What a great example of teamwork!

Thanks to everyone who is letting their light shine and helping to make Kingsview an even more accessible, safe and welcoming place to gather and worship.

Thank you.