

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Council
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, BC**

February 18, 2020

Present: Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Carla Wilks, Kim Branch, Mary Sparks, Catherine Branch, Dilys Sostad, Steve Wellenbrink, Barry Fenton

Absent: Frank Luba, Michelle Coulombe

C. Branch opened the meeting at 6:45 pm.

1. Opening

N. Talbot opened with a reading.

2. Approve Previous Council Meeting Minutes

The January 19, 2019 regular Council minutes were reviewed and approved as amended. (M/S B. Fenton/M. Sparks).

The January 19, 2019 in camera Council minutes were reviewed and approved as amended. (M/S S. Wellenbrink/D. Sostad).

3. Committee Reports

a. Property Team

- D. Sostad provided an update on activities, including a recent meeting with preschool staff. Improvements to the cabinets and washrooms are being planned.

ACTION ITEM: Request a verbal report from the Preschool at an upcoming council meeting.

4. Updates

a. Ministers' update

- N. Talbot confirmed that Andria Irwin has accepted the offer for candidate supply during her sabbatical and vacation (June 9 – Oct 1, 2020). We are awaiting direction from UCC head office regarding supervised ministry experience process.
- Dominique Hogan has officially resigned from her contract position supporting the Jubilee Choir.
- A successful newcomers' gathering was held in January.

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- C. Wilks shared that the morning Sacred Pause continues to be well received.
- The Thrift Shop strategic plan work is ongoing with an upcoming community meeting planned for March 8, 2020.
- She has been looking into greater opportunities to address issues on the Downtown Eastside through the First United Partnership Circle.
- Carla continues to work with the Executive Director of the North Shore Youth Safe House to provide support to their clients. The Thrift Shop assisted in setting up their new home.
- She is participating on the search committee for the New Westminster congregation.
- Nancy presented her sabbatical plan.

The following motion was unanimously carried.

2020-04 Be it resolved that MSUC Council approve Rev. Talbot's sabbatical plan (M/S B. Fenton / M. Sparks).

5. a. Budget

- B. Fenton distributed the 2020 draft budget, which will be finalized over the coming months.
- Of note, the operating deficit will be balanced.
- The finance committee will be discussing financing/investments with our accountants.

b. Thrift Shop

- Meetings are ongoing with the consultant. A community meeting has been scheduled for March 8 to gather input from volunteers and the congregation, with a focus on sustainability of the thrift shop in the long term.
- The thrift shop is interested in pursuing work placements through the Wired for Success program for 15 to 30-year old individuals with barriers to employment as shed workers, as well as applying for four summer students. C. Wilks and A. Doss will finalize the applications for funding and be responsible for the hiring.

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The following motions were unanimously carried.

2020-05 *Be it resolved that MSUC Council explore the Wired for Success work placement program for shed workers. MSUC will be responsible for 4% vacation pay and benefits. (M/S M. Sparks /D. Sostad).*

2020-06 *Be it resolved that MSUC Council proceed with the federal summer grant program to hire four summer students. MSUC will be responsible for top up pay to bring the hourly wage to \$15 per hour. (M/S M. Sparks /D. Sostad).*

c. First Nations reconciliation

- N. Talbot and C. Wilks reported that further connections have been made to support reconciliation efforts.

6. Closing

C. Branch called meeting to close at 8:50pm.

**Next Regular Council Meeting
Thursday, March 12, 2020 6:30 pm**

Minutes Approved on March 12, 2020

**Catherine Branch, Council Chair
Kim Branch, Secretary**