

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

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**March 12, 2020**

**Present:** Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Carla Wilks, Kim Branch, Mary Sparks, Catherine Branch, Steve Wellenbrink, Barry Fenton, Frank Luba

Absent: Dilys Sostad, Michelle Coulombe

Guest: Ward Branch

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

**1. Opening**

N. Talbot opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Approve Previous Council Meeting Minutes**

The February 18, 2019 Council minutes were reviewed and approved as amended. (M/S S. Wellenbrink /B. Fenton).

**3. Updates**

**a. Worship service protocols**

- N. Talbot provided an overview of COVID-19 protocols at the church building. Deep cleaning has taken place, Thrift Shop has enacted changes to reduce exposure and all event rentals have been cancelled.
- Awareness of pastoral needs of those in isolation.

**ACTION ITEM: Discussions ongoing about services and Thrift Shop. AN email will be sent to council members if decisions need to be made on short notice.**

**b. Thrift Shop update**

- C. Wilks provided an update of the Thrift Shop community meeting held March 8. Approximately 50 people attended, with good representation from congregation and community.
- The process surrounding the Thrift Shop strategic plan, as well as the work of the consultant, received positive feedback.
- The next step for is for the draft strategic plan to be reviewed by the planning team and then presented to Council.

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**c. Budget**

- B. Fenton reported that the 2019 financial results will show a balanced position.

**d. Mental Health Ministry**

- W. Branch presented a summary of his research on a mental health ministry proposal. Inquiries were made, in particular with Tottigham United Church in Toronto, ON. Their advice was to allocate funds to subsidize counselling services on a referral basis, with partial payment from the user.
- Physical location in the church building is not recommended, for a variety of reasons including liability, confidentiality concerns and administrative demands.
- It was suggested that a seminar series be organized at the church, to keep engagement levels high of the congregation and local community.
- Early discussions with potential psychologists and service providers has been initiated, to offer their services.
- A special project budget of \$35,000 has been developed. This would allow for 200 timeslots annually (10 sessions per client, with a checkback).
- The potential for UCC funding through the Seeds of Hope program will be explored.
- A mental health ministry committee structure will be set up.
- The proposal will be presented at the upcoming AGM.

The following motion was unanimously carried.

***2020-07 Be it resolved that MSUC Council approve a Mental Health Ministry to provide counselling services as presented for a two year pilot period, with funding of \$35,000 from the bequest. (M/S B. Fenton/M. Sparks).***

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**4. Closing**

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

**Next Regular Council Meeting  
*Wednesday, April 13, 2020 6:30 pm***

**Minutes Approved on April 14, 2020**

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