

Approved Minutes: Meeting/Retreat - Mt. Seymour United Church Council

September 27, 2025 – 10am-12:30pm; Mount Seymour United Church

1. Opening

- Rev. Carla Wilks led the opening and check-in

In attendance: Kim Branch, Catherine Branch, Younes Skhissi, Jeffrey Smith, Kirsten Harkins, Tierney Ness, Doug Querns, Steve Wellenbrink, Rev. Carla Wilks and Rev. Deb Bowman.

Acknowledge Linda Matthews's resignation from Council (via email September 23, 2025)

2. Approve Previous Council Meeting Minutes

- **Motion to approve August 27, 2025 Council Meeting Minutes Catherine/Doug PASSED**
- **Acknowledge edits made to previously approved October 2024 Council Meeting Minutes.** To maintain confidentiality, the M&P report was removed (and placed in "confidential" dropbox folder) and staff names were removed from the body of the remaining report and replaced with "staff member".

Territorial acknowledgement by Kirsten.

3. Next Council meeting

- Oct 15 was confirmed.
- 2nd Wednesday of the month confirmed for future meetings.

4. Ministry Profile Orientation & Search (for our information)

- Rev. Debra Bowman:
- Reviewed handbook: Guidelines for a Community of Faith Profile
- Committee is in place and started its work on the Community of Faith profile. Living faith story will be developed, following extensive consultation.
- "Where we go from here" is a major event for the congregation, Thrift Shop volunteers and the community ("**Community of Faith and Service**"); held Sept 27. 12:30-4:30.
- Committee members are working through homework on profile creation (October)
- Regional representative is appointed to oversee process (Rev. Bowman)
- Council role is to hold steady and be unified
- Brainstorming on council messaging: We are in the process of determining next steps, which involves the congregation and community, so that we can move forward in the best way possible.
- Consistent with national church requirements – to be circulated.

5. Council's Role in the Transition: Hopes for the Year, Dreams for the Future

- Rev. Debra Bowman:
- Piazza/common space theology where people can come and enjoy the space. How can we solidify this and deepen roots?
- Discussion: What would you like to see happen? What is your big picture dream? What impact would you like to make?

Approved Minutes: Meeting/Retreat - Mt. Seymour United Church Council

September 27, 2025 – 10am-12:30pm; Mount Seymour United Church

- Council shared their thoughts, discussed Alexis's excellent suggestions, and considered the barriers to making the impact we envision.

- **ACTION for council & staff:**

- Update church directory
- Organize governance (aligned with constitution):
 - Clear roles and responsibilities for council and volunteers
 - Clear job descriptions for all staff
- Ensure people are aware of all the various activities happening at MSUC – how can we claim and project that we are a “community hub”?
 - Consider signage on street
 - Consider monthly calendar displayed on monitors in café seating area

6. Meeting Adjournment (12:30pm)