

Mt. Seymour United Church Council Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2024 6:30 pm

- 1) **Attendance:** Steve Wellenbrink, Mary Sparks, Nancy Talbot, Kathryn Ferris, Lorna Leckie, Carla Wilks, Kirsten Harkens, Kelly Nobles, Heathir Naesgaard
- 2) **Opening** –Territory acknowledgement.
Nancy – Opening/ Check in
- 3) **Approve Minutes** – December 13, 2023 tabled to next meeting
- 4) **Committee Reports**
 - Finance: see attached
 - Property: see attached
 - Ministry and Personnel: see attached
- 5) **Updates**
 - Ministers' update (Nancy and Carla) see attached reports
 - In addition to written report, Nancy mentioned a new potential Wednesday renter; and an upcoming event with the Moderator Feb 10 on flourishing congregations
- 6) **New Business** was conducted In Camera
- 7) **Action Items**
 - a) Kelly to prepare December and January minutes according to new format
 - b) Kirsten to send M&P report
- 8) **Closing** – Nancy
- 9) **Next Meeting:** February 13 following Ash Wednesday service, (March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12)

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Reports

Financial:

In terms of money on hand, our account balances are as follows:

1. Chequing: \$57,846
2. Savings: \$232
3. Investments: They are now at \$1,033,000, a nice \$38,000 jump from last month. It's nice to see it back over 7 figures. Recall from our retreat that the congregation was expecting us to keep it over \$800,000, so this series of monthly jumps does give us a bit more breathing room.
4. COVID Loan: We've now repaid this loan. We paid back \$40,000, and the feds rewarded us by forgiving the last \$20,000.

Property:

Ministry and Personnel:

1. We have received notice from Dani Durland that he will no longer be able to run power point and sound on Sunday mornings after the beginning of March. Recruitment to begin once new sound system is installed (hopefully next week). Owen may be available.
2. Cheryl Schott (bookkeeper) is undergoing a medical procedure at the end of January, but she does not think it will preclude her from finishing up year-end, which she is working on completing this week. There may be some delays in Cheryl's ability to get everything to the accountant on time, but we are mostly concerned about her health.

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Lead Minister's Update for January 2024 Council Meeting Rev. Nancy

General Update

The last month was spent preparing for and leading Advent and Christmas services as well as offering pastoral care and planning for 2024. I took a week of holidays after Christmas Eve.

Worship and Christian Development:

- Led worship on 2 Sundays, participated in Blue Christmas (Carla lead) and 2 Christmas Eve services (Carla lead on 4, Nancy on 7:30)
- Led December Pilgrims Path and planning January full day retreat (for January 13)
- Organized stories for Children's ministry leaders each week– note we only had children out on one Sunday in December other than early Christmas Eve service
- Organized music coverage for Julian for January (Dominique) – there is no return to work date for him yet.
- Met with WCD team to debrief Advent/Christmas and make plans for January and into Lent.
- Lent starts February 14. We will have a Shrove Tuesday/Ash Wednesday service on the 13th. Rebooting the Gifts of the Dark Wood series from 6 years ago including adult book study.
- ***Note that we have received notice from Dani Durland that he will no longer be able to run power point and sound on Sunday mornings after beginning of March – will recruit after new sound system is installed hopefully this week****
- Spent time looking into some new worship planning resources
- Kirsten has started Yoga again and Carla leading meditation.

Pastoral Care/Congregational Life

- Caring Connections (including Carla and I) delivered a number of poinsettias to members of the congregation before Christmas.
- Had several Pastoral phone calls and texts, a care home visit and a hospice visit
- Set date for Chili Cook off with Peter!!

Administration etc.

- Led Staff Meetings – “Hosted” Christmas Staff lunch at Northview Golf Course
- Met with Jenn and Carla around issues arising from a Memorial Service (verbal report to come via M&P)
- Telephone meeting with M&P chair
- Met with Cheryl Schott about Year end and Book keeping issues

Café:

- Café was quite busy in December and sales were strengthened by pre-ordering of Christmas baking etc. Awaiting year end numbers to see sales to expense ratios.
- Catered One memorial service and one rental group choir rehearsal
- Virtually no volunteers for the two weeks before Christmas meant that Jenn was in the kitchen helping Nayanna quite a bit. Plan to review volunteer help etc in the coming weeks.

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Sacred Garden:

- Mag Caron and Steve have met with Landscapers. Plan to begin work on the prayer wall in the coming weeks. Oculus to follow. Need to discuss how and when to share more information with the congregation about the project(beyond the display in the Narthex)

Wider Church:

- A small amount of work for First United Redevelopment campaign (emails)
- Meeting later this month with Theme and Worship team for the Pacific Mountain Region Annual General Meeting (in June)
- Meeting this week to plan a day long retreat for North Shore churches with Lynn Valley United and rep from Highlands United – scheduled for February 17th – at Lynn Valley United

Upcoming dates:

- Sunday, January 28th – Chili Cookoff!
- February 13th – Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday service.

January 2024, Update to Council – Rev Carla

- I preached on two Sundays in December 3 and 31, presided for December 31, and participated the other Sundays (prayers/children's story). I led the Blue Christmas service and 4pm Christmas Eve and participated in the 7:30pm Christmas Eve.
- Coordinated inventory and delivery and dismantling of Giving Tree and donations.
- Led a memorial service
- I have met for supervision sessions with Alexis – and then she had almost 3 weeks of holidays in December/January.
- Supervised/checked in with John/Rebecca during Alexis' holidays and did some troubleshooting in the shop.
- I had a few pastoral visits in my office, a home visit – and several pastoral phone calls this month.
- I participated in a WCD meeting
- Led meditation this week.
- Participated in Staff meetings and supervision meetings with Nancy – reading the book "Dare to Lead" by Brene Brown together and discussing it.
- Attended staff Christmas lunch
- Managed mental health project application and communication
- For my wider church work I had one meeting with the Pacific Mountain Region (PMR) Lay leadership support committee.
- Coordinated Thrift Shop gifts for Blueridge Cares hamper program.

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- Participated in a thrift shop new volunteer orientation interview.
- Intercepted visitors/phone calls/other requests at the church in the week after Christmas when Nancy/Jenn/Alexis were on vacation.
- Hosted a board game afternoon during the Christmas week. 13 people attended.
- Checked in with volunteers on each shift and at tea time, and have been present in café and thrift shop when they are open on Thursdays and Fridays.