

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

January 11, 2017

Present: Catherine Branch, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Barry Fenton, Katherine Querns, Dilys Sostad, Mary Sparks, Sharon Stevens, Kim Branch.

Regrets: Steve Wellenbrink, Meg Clarke, Roger Brain, Rev. Wade Lifton, Nicole George

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

1. Opening

Rev. Nancy opened with a reading on Epiphany.

2. Approve Minutes

Council minutes were reviewed and amended. **M/S (S. Stevens/K. Querns)** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of December 14, 2016 be approved as amended.
Carried.

3. Committee Reports – by consent agenda. Discussion of any questions arising.

Worship Committee Report

- N. Talbot provided an overview of recent meeting (minutes to be added to Dropbox)
- New members have joined and brought with them added energy.
- Planning for Easter is underway with an aim of enhancing the experience for the congregation.
- Discussion of timing of upcoming congregational suppers.

A-Team

- Budget may change depending on agreement with Maintenance contractor. Awaiting input from Treasurer Roger Brain.

4. New Business

a. Ministry and Personnel Budget

- (C. Branch reported today due to illness of current M &P Chair Steve Wellenbrink)
- C. Branch reviewed details of staffing salary budget. Cost of living increases were incorporated at 2%, rather than the national average of 1.1%.
- Options are being investigated for any possible staff leaves of absence.

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- The Children and Youth minister will be offered an additional 2 hours per week.
- Existing contracts and renewal dates were discussed.

M/S (D. Sostad/B. Fenton, S. Stevens abstained) that the Ministry and Personnel Budget be approved with revisions. **Carried.**

b. Full budget

- Will be brought forward at next meeting

c. Contact from MP

- Local MP for Burnaby-North Seymour, Terry Beech, has contacted all faith communities to discuss opportunities for engagement.
- Council will consider potential opportunities for his involvement and also asked that Rev. W. Lifton contact the MP's office regarding MSUC Canada Jobs Grant application for this summer.

d. Other – Anne Ellis request for Financial Assistance

- Anne Ellis, Children and Youth Minister, submitted a request to Worship Committee and Council for financial assistance towards an upcoming trip to Israel/Palestine (letter dated January 4, 2017).
- The 10-day trip is organized by Ret'd Minister Marianna Harris and will highlight holy sites and United Church partner's activities to promote peace and justice.
- The trip will support her personal and faith development. Opportunities exist to build connections between MSUC children and youth and the children attending a school in Nazereth that serves both Christian and Muslim communities.
- Total cost of the trip is estimated at \$4,200; Council discussed funding options from the Memorial Fund.
- The following resolution was passed by Council **M/S (M. Sparks/B. Fenton). Carried.**

Be it resolved that Council approves a grant of \$2,000 to Anne Ellis, towards the travel costs of her planned trip to Israel and Palestine in April 2017.

e. "Mid-Year" review on our goals and progress

- General discussion/check-in of priorities and areas of meaningful programming.

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6. Updates

a. Ministers' Update

- Rev. Nancy provided an overview of activities.
 - Feedback on Christmas services was shared
 - Update on Marcus Mosely's health and planned fundraiser (to be held at MSUC, February 10, 2017)
 - Remits from national church should be discussed with congregation by the end of June (put on AGM agenda).

7. Communications

- Full budget presented at next meeting for Council resolution – **R. Brain/C. Branch**
- Advise staff that that Council approved annual increases/changes, effective upon congregational vote at Annual General Meeting – **Rev. N. Talbot**
- Contact made with MP Terry Beech's office re: Canada Jobs Grant application – **Rev. W. Lifton**
- Consider opportunities for MP Terry Beech's involvement – **Council**
- Inform Anne Ellis that the Council approved a grant towards her trip to Israel/Palestine – **C. Branch**
- Request update from J. B. Fulton and L. Staude on refugee sponsorship – **S. Stevens**
- Interview and hire a bookkeeper on contract – **C. Branch/R. Brain**
- Annual Report submissions should be drafted and sent to S. Stevens by early February – **Committee Chairs**
- United Church remits to be on Annual General Meeting agenda – **C. Branch/N. Talbot**

8. Closing

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

Next Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 8, 2017
6:30 pm

Minutes Approved on February 8, 2017.

Catherine Branch, Council Chair

Kim Branch, Secretary