

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

June 21, 2017

Present: Catherine Branch, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Dilys Sostad, Kim Branch, Sharon Stevens, Katherine Querns, Meg Clarke, Michelle Coulombe, Roger Brain

Regrets: Barry Fenton, Steve Wellenbrink, Mary Sparks, Frank Luba

C. Branch opened the meeting at 6:40 pm.

1. Opening

The meeting opened with an introduction of members and their roles. Michelle Coulombe has joined council as the M&P Chair and Frank Luba has joined as Member-at-Large.

2. Approve May Council Meeting Minutes

The May 10, 2017 Council minutes were reviewed and approved as amended **M/S** (K. Querns/S. Stevens) **Carried**.

3. Committee Reports – by consent agenda. No questions arising. A-Team and M&O reports deferred to New Business agenda items.

4. Updates

a. Ministers' Update (Rev. Nancy)

- Summary of staff retreat
- Current programming will be continued for next year
- Stigma-Free Zone designation will be investigated further in the Fall.
- Rev. Wade has been approved for restorative care leave, retroactive to May 12, 2017 at 85% salary. Sharon to connect regarding salary payments. Intention to return at 85%. Possibility of gradual return to be discussed.
- Anne Ellis will provide pulpit supply for three Sundays in July and cover front-line duties, with Rev. Marianna Harris and Rev. Sally McShane as backup. Anne to be paid 5 hrs/week, plus pulpit supply payment. Rev. Sally will provide pulpit supply on the 4th Sunday in July.
- S. Stevens has been approved for extra vacation (3rd week as LWOP). Administrative coverage for this timeframe plus 1 week of training to be discussed with Roger/Meg.
- Labyrinth repainting will be completed on June 25, 2017.

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5. New Business

a. United Church of Canada Remits (C. Branch)

- Council voted on Remits 1-4. K. Branch to submit voting ballots to United Church of Canada head office.

Remit 1 – Three Council Model

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- (a) the United Church be re-organized into the three-council model approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Passed unanimously.

Remit 2 – Elimination of Transfer and Settlement

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- (a) the processes of transfer and settlement for members of the order of ministry within the United Church be eliminated, including the elimination of the General Council Transfer Committee; and that
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Passed unanimously.

Remit 3 – Office of Vocation

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree that:

- (a) a denominational office of vocation be established in the structure of the United Church, with responsibilities and structure as approved by the 42nd General Council 2015; and that
- (b) the Basis of Union be amended to reflect this change?

Passed unanimously.

Remit 4 – Funding a New Model

Does the presbytery/pastoral charge agree to a new funding model for the United Church with the budgeting process guided by the following principles?

- (a) use Mission and Service to fund ministry and mission activities;
- (b) fund governance and support services of other courts/councils by assessing communities of faith/pastoral charges;
- (c) share assessments equitably across the whole church;
- (d) permit Conferences/presbyteries/regional councils to use additional resources for regional purposes; and
- (e) encourage sharing of all resources across the church.

Passed unanimously.

- b. Status update on Wade** – discussed during Minister's update.

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c. Roof – including Fall fundraising event.

- Reviewed estimates for roof repair and HVAC.
- S. Wellenbrink to provide technical expertise.
- The bid estimate will continue to move along over the summer months.
- Fundraising plans: two commitments have already been received, with two more leads. Thrift Shop is projecting an extra \$20,000 in revenue beyond their budgeted sales.
- Roof repair project will include funds to replenish contingency and to paint the sanctuary. Fundraising goal: \$250,000.
- A Fall community event will be organized.

d. September introduction of teams

- A September service will raise awareness of the teams

e. Sponsorships

- B. Fenton provided a summary via email of his partnership discussions with local grocers.
- Safeway has contributed gift cards towards the Christmas in June event and will be approached to provide donations towards the First United picnic in August.
- Stongs has committed to donate the sandwich meat for First United sandwiches (1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month). Cobs provides the bread.
- Cedar Springs provides support towards the Thrift Store.
- B. Fenton will continue to connect with other local grocers (Thrifty's, Superstore)
- Thank you cards will be sent.
- Recognition of sponsorships will be included in weekly e-news, bulletin boards. North Shore News will be contacted in the Fall.

f. Sponsored refugee families

- Jen-Beth Fulton has requested funding towards books and registrations, totaling \$330.
- Refugee account balance is currently at \$15,000.
- Discussion of providing a \$2500 discretionary fund to cover ongoing needs of the sponsored families. Receipts to be submitted for reimbursement. Jen-Beth Fulton will be asked to administer the fund. **M/S** (R. Brain/D. Sostad)
Carried.

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Be it resolved that Council approves the establishment of a \$2,500 discretionary fund for the ongoing needs of the sponsored refugee families.

g. Review communications items from May.

6. Council Priorities

- Financial Planning/Sustainability discussed as part of New Business items.

7. Communications

- Stigma-Free Zone designation – research (Nancy)
- Rev. Wade's restorative care salary payments and return from restorative care (potential of gradual) to be discussed with him. (Roger/Sharon)
- Administrative coverage Sharon's vacation plus 1 week of training to be discussed with Roger/Meg.
- Insurance coverage for volunteers to be reviewed by Catherine.
- K. Branch to submit voting ballots to United Church of Canada head office by June 30th deadline.
- Seek 2nd estimate for HVAC repair and continue on bid preparation (Dilys, Steve)
- Seek out an organizer for the fall community event
- Recognition of sponsorships through thank you cards, communications (Sharon, Meg, Frank)
- Inform Jen-Beth of the discretionary fund (Catherine)
- Informal council meeting scheduled for August 30, 2017.

9. Closing

C. Branch called meeting to close at 8:30 pm, following a reading by Rev. Nancy.

**Next Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, August 30, 2017
6:30 pm**

Minutes Approved on (August 30, 2017)

Catherine Branch, Council Chair

Kim Branch, Secretary