

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

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**Tuesday, September 14, 2016**

**Present:** Rev. Nancy Talbot, Catherine Branch, Roger Brain, Rev. Wade Lifton, Carol Kelly, Sharon Stevens, Mary Sparks, Katherine Querns, Barry Fenton, Nicole George, Kim Branch.

**Regrets:** Steve Wellenbrink

**Special Guests:** Sharon Brain, Chair of A-Team

Chair C. Branch opened the meeting at 6:40 pm. K. Querns added an item to the agenda as "Other Business".

### **1. Opening**

Rev. Nancy opened with a faith conversation on the topic of God as storyteller. Catherine was invited to share her faith story, followed by a check-in on summer activities by all members.

### **2. Approve Minutes**

Council minutes were reviewed and amended. **M/S (S. Stevens/C. Kelly)** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of June 21, 2016 be approved as amended. **Carried.**

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

#### **A Team Report**

- Sharon Brain made a presentation on behalf of the A-Team:
  - The September 2016 A Team report was submitted. Clarification provided regarding the fire safety inspection contract.
  - The list of completed items was reviewed. Update provided regarding the replacement of sanctuary windows, exterior painting and signage. These projects were recently funded through donations from members of the congregation, totaling \$45,000.
  - A Stage 2 Plan for long term items was submitted and discussed.
  - Effective September 16, S.Brain is resigning as Chair. Dylis Sostad will be taking over in that role. In closing, the following recommendations were made to Council:
    1. MSUC needs to budget for and hire a one-day-a-week handy person: a self-starter with diverse practical skills who can work his/her way through a complex list of things to do.
    2. Start raising funds to do a roof replacement. Get quotes. Sooner is better. Three years is a generous estimate for how long the current roof will last.
    3. Stay on top of keeping church spaces clean, free of clutter, and welcoming.

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4. Support finding volunteers to do specific jobs or tend to specific areas. Sylvia's Library is a good example of this.
5. Keep a list of projects with current quotes ready for passing donors.

### **Financial Report**

- R. Brain informed council that Heidi Carota, the bookkeeper has resigned and a replacement will need to be recruited (5 hours per week). Catherine will followup with her contacts.
- The half-year financial report was submitted:
  - MSUC is at a break-even point, thanks to increased revenues and decreased expenses. Surplus has been retained.
  - PAR campaign has resulted in some increases in givings and participation rate.
  - R. Brain and Rev. Nancy will review givings.

### **Council Priorities – Group Conversation (#5 on Agenda, moved up)**

This month's Maker Space discussion addressed the council priority: 'Financial Planning/Sustainability'. A recommendation for a Sunday Minute promoting increased PAR givings by a speaker of moderate means was discussed. This topic will be further discussed with Meg Clarke, as well as at the upcoming council retreat.

B. Fenton and S. Stevens provided an update on new rental revenue: JOJY Music are renting two spaces on Saturday morning, for music classes to young children and an independent school is renting the Narthex on weekdays this fall. These two rentals have resulted in increased revenue of \$2,000 per month, as well as contributing to community outreach.

### **4. New Business**

#### **a. Thrift Shop items**

- Discussion regarding use of space and thrift shop priorities was tabled for discussion at the upcoming council retreat.
- The new cement pad has been beneficial.
- Need for strong-bodied volunteers was raised, with recommendation for a Sunday minute on the topic.
- First anniversary celebration was jointly planned by the Preschool and Thrift Store and was positively received. The Preschool has offered assistance with any future advertising needs.

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- b. A request from the Seymour Scouts troop for sponsorship was discussed. This will primarily be an accountability role that offers an opportunity for community relationship.

**M/S (M. Sparks/B. Fenton)** that Mount Seymour United Church agrees to become an official sponsor of Seymour Scouts troop. **Carried.**

- c. The Council's Fall Retreat was confirmed for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 8am-2pm. Location to be confirmed. Topics include mental health, Thrift Store and givings.
- d. Other Business: K. Querns presented an item on the possibility for MSUC to facilitate a discussion of pipeline development. K. Querns and Rev. Wade to discuss further, with an emphasis on respectful dialogue.

## 6. Minister's Update

- Rev. Nancy provided an overview of summer activities.
  - The new website has been launched, with much positive feedback.
  - The closure of Trinity United's Heartwood Café presented an opportunity for the purchase of an espresso machine and other items at reduced prices. The Curating Team will look into how to integrate this equipment into the kitchen space.
  - The potential for a trip to Bella Coola will continue to be explored.
- Rev. Wade provided an update on his Emerging Ministries, highlighting the partnership potential with the Hope Centre

## 7. Closing

C. Branch called meeting to close at 8:50 pm. Rev. Nancy closed with a reading

**Next Regular Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 12, 2016**  
**6:30 pm**

**Minutes Approved on October 12, 2016**

**Catherine Branch, Council Chair**

**Kim Branch, Secretary**