

Mount Seymour United Church
Council Minutes
October 11 2023

The meeting was held in the Cafe Space and was **called to order** at 6:37.

In **Attendance** were Kirsten Harkins, Steve Wellenbrink, Carla Wilks, Nancy Talbot, Mary Sparks, Kathryn Ferriss, Lorna Leckie, Younes Skhissi, Heathir Naesgaard, and Jen Towers. Mary Sparks chaired the meeting and Kelly Nobles took the minutes.

Mary **opened** by acknowledging our debt to the traditional stewards of the land.

Nancy read a prayer by Joyce Rupp for autumn transitions. This was followed by a brief check-in with members sharing what gives us hope.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and amendments proposed.

- ★ Moved by Heathir Naesgaard, seconded by Jen Towers: That the Minutes of Sept be approved as amended. CARRIED

April/May minutes still need to be approved

Property Report - Heathir

- ❖ side lights are being switched to power smart LED on a timer. Cost is \$4100. The money for this will be from the Building Contingency fund.
 - ❖ Two quotes have been obtained for a new sound system and a third is in the works. Each quote is sent to Julian Pattison, Dominique Hogan and an independent consultant. Council recommends consulting with John Lyons as well. The likely price will be in the mid 20000's. The property committee would like to take this from the Contingency Fund as well.
 - ❖ The committee is still working on quotes for snow removal.
- ★ Moved by Kathryn Ferriss, seconded by Steve Wellenbrink: that Council authorize spending up to \$35k in total for both projects. CARRIED.

Minister's report - Carla

- ❖ Since returning from Basic Training Carla has worked on the Mental Health project. The stories in NS News and CBC led to an uptick in interest
- ❖ 6 applications have been received, 4 with deposit, 3 have started counseling and 2 reimbursements have been made.
- ❖ First of the speaker series with Mary Sparks is on Oct 17
- ❖ Word has gone out to other United churches and posters are up at the library, community centre etc. Info needs to get to the schools as well (counselors)
 - Carla to obtain and share mental health poster

- Heathir to take posters to Ron Andrews RecCentre, day cares etc
- ❖ Book study - 19 participants total, several attended the first sessions in Sept /Oct
- ❖ Communities of Faith Council (regional - supervises congregational life in BC, supports church Councils) asks “How is your church doing?”

Ministers report - Nancy

- ❖ The Thrift Shop has done its Halloween blitz, and the numbers have been good.
- ❖ Nancy spoke with Jeff about the proposed changes to the constitution.
 - Nancy will send Jeff the changes to review in advance of congregational approval.
- ❖ Seniors’ Horizon grant - results won’t be in until the new year; the hoped for funds will cover an industrial refrigerator which will help with meals-to-go.
- ❖ Jimena has resigned. There has been some conversation with Foundry on funding another position. If not, it can be filled by volunteers.

New business

- ❖ The Historic Roll is supposed to be updated every year and a list of names be reported in Council minutes. See attached list of names to be removed. Most have been inactive for over a decade. Many have died.
 - Nancy will send Kelly an electronic copy of the historic roll document.
 - ❖ Worship team will present names for affirmation of faith, transfer of membership and baptism Oct 22. - see attached
 - ❖ Council reviewed Comprehensive Review Recommendations from 5 years ago. Focus on staffing and on Kerr bequest. There is more left of the bequest after 5 years than originally projected, despite Covid.
 - ❖ Job descriptions have evolved since 2018. One position has been cut since Anne Ellis left. Other positions are new.
 - ❖ Questions: Are these still our priorities? Is staff time being spent optimally to support our places of aliveness? What is the reality now compared to the intentions of 2018? During retreat Council will create a vision for the next five years including the beginnings of succession planning.
- ★ Kirsten Harkins moved, Kathryn Ferriss seconded: That names be removed from the Historic Roll according to list. CARRIED

Next meeting Retreat Nov 4 9-2

Nancy Closed with a reflection on the work still to be done in hope, goodness and love.