

Mount Seymour United Church
Council Meeting May 10 2023
Cafe Space

In **attendance** were: Nancy Talbot,, Carla Wilkes, Mary Sparks, Kelly Nobles, Younes Skhissi.
Regrets: Ward Branch, Kirsten Harkins, Lorna Leckie, Kathryn Ferriss
The meeting was **called to order** at 6:50 p.m.
Kelly **acknowledged the land** and the First Nations' ancient and ongoing stewardship
Nancy **opened** with a reading on transformation: what do we need to let go of in order to embrace new life? This was followed by a check-in around metamorphosis and letting go.

Acceptance of the **Minutes** was deferred until the June meeting as quorum was not present.

Ministers' reports:

Nancy highlighted from her written report:

- Some issues around cafe conflicts with funerals etc - what is sustainable? Also, how should Income and expenses be reported?
- Peter Muirhead is unavailable for the Picnic June 11 but a volunteer team will organize it.

Carla mentioned in addition to her written report:

- Ilham and her husband Nabil stopped by to visit one Thursday while the men 's breakfast were meeting. They want to come to church and meet more people. They will be invited for Picnic Sunday.
- Mental health: the first request has come in for support; Carla matched the client with Julie Clayton, the Mental Health First Aid trainer who gave a workshop here
- Thrift Shop: Alexis is off on bereavement leave and Carla is ensuring staff is in place to run things smoothly when she is away.

New business:

Budget: Our income hasn't increased as we hoped and we really need to find solutions. Cafe income/expense reporting needs a consistent protocol.

Children's community: The number of children in attendance at worship is still hovering around 1-2 per week. Total attendance is averaging around 6. Are there changes to the worship model that would bring in more families? Mark Coulombe has offered his gifts and skills for a visioning process. He will be invited to the June meeting for an informal conversation.

Garden Project: a meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:30 in preparation for a meeting of the congregation after church on the 28th. Drawings need to be commissioned for the main entrance area including Oculus/prayer wall, garden bed, perhaps also the Contemplative Grove. The pathway/shed area redesign needs to be more of a priority. Cost for drawings is estimated at \$3500.

- ★ Moved by Younes Skhissi, Seconded by Kelly Nobles: that Council authorize up to \$5000 for Landscape planning and design services - Motion circulated by email - CARRIED as of May 12

The dishwasher broke down and needs to be replaced. A generous donation has been offered to replace it. The unit is on order.

Action items:

- Mary is to contact Steve, Greg, Leila
- Nancy is to invite all interested parties to the sacred garden meeting (take Alexis off the list for now) and note in the e-news.
- Mary is to email council re: approving the motion above.

Carla **closed** with a prayer.

Meeting **adjourned** at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: June 14 at 6:30 p.m.