

Mount Seymour United Church
Council Meeting January 11 2023
6:30 pm at the home of Kirsten Harkins
Minutes

Attendance: Nancy Talbot, Carla Wilks, Mary Sparks, Kelly Nobles, Kathryn Ferriss, Lorna Leckie, Kirsten Harkins

Regrets: Ward Branch, Younes Skhissi

Opening: Nancy acknowledged the territory on which we meet, and read "Wise women also came" by Jan Richardson. Check-in centred around Star gifts.

Minutes adopted with amendments

Reports:

Finance: In Ward's absence, Nancy reported that Ward is working on the budget. The numbers for 2022 look less bleak than expected.

Nancy highlighted:

- Stewardship campaign has been effective. There have been some substantial increases in givings and some have joined PAR who hadn't before. Some have indicated interest in other forms of giving outlined in Meg's presentation.
- Fay is feeling well enough to do some work on last year's givings. She will finish tax receipts for 2022 and will hand off to a new volunteer (or a paid bookkeeper). New up-to-date software may be needed. It may be time to purge the envelope order.
- Dani Durland is on sound and getting the hang of it.
- Peter Muirhead would like to buy a used freezer for turkeys etc. Council approved a budget of \$200.
- Nancy met with Catherine Branch. The Ministry and Personnel committee needs to meet regularly.

Carla highlighted:

- Highlands United is exploring the idea of starting a thrift shop and is asking for a meeting with Carla.
- A community member approached Carla for support around a recent bereavement. It has led to a beautiful new connection.
- Christmas Eve family service was great

New business:

- a) Café: see minister's report. The learning curve is steep and there is a constant need to regroup. Lori Keith is helping with grants. Jen is hiring a cafe manager to replace herself.
- b) Thrift shop: Alexis had 3 weeks off. Rebecca and new hire John Andreychuk kept it running smoothly. Carla is meeting with the Strategic Planning group. Sales for 2022 exceeded pre-covid numbers.
- c) Follow up regarding fiscal responsibility (staffing): Mary and Nancy will be meeting to look at potential efficiencies while maintaining the priorities and vision of the church.
- d) Property: Steve Wellenbrink and the insurance adjuster examined the damage from the flood. In the adjuster's view it is not enough damage to justify a claim (the deductible being \$5000.) A contractor has examined the wall for underlying issues and found moisture in the exterior walls of Nancy's and Jen's offices.
- e) The Garden project needs to be presented to the congregation. There is no total budget but it can be approached piecemeal as funds become available. It will be introduced as a multi-year plan with many potential options for funding.

Action items:

- ★ Nancy will notify Peter re: the deep freeze,
- ★ Nancy will forward the garden plans to Council members.

AGM is booked tentatively for April 23.

Next meeting: February 13 at 6:30

Nancy closed with a reflection on the Wise Women and faithful men in the congregation.

Meeting **adjourned** 9:30