

**Mount Seymour United church**  
**Council Meeting November 9 2022**  
**6:30 pm in the Cafe space**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:** Nancy Talbot, Carla Wilks, Mary Sparks, Kelly Nobles, Younes Skhissi, Lorna Leckie, Kirsten Haskins

Regrets: Kathryn Ferris, Ward Branch

**Opening:** Mary acknowledged the territory on which we meet  
Nancy led a Check-in around the Godly Play story of the sower and the seeds which had informed the Council retreat in October

**Business arising from retreat:**

- Change to thrift shop hours
- No service Dec 25 am
- Discussed bequest/finances
- Council should commit to increased giving before asking the congregation

**Reports:**

Nancy highlighted:

- The reduction in hours for children's ministry leaves more pressures on the remaining staff. We need to revisit and re-prioritize things like advent wreath making, soulful supper, youth fundraising, Christmas Eve family service etc
- The church needs a replacement for Owen on tech. Sheida Canary is trained and willing to do some Sundays. Raise fee from \$30 to \$40 or \$50? Or student volunteer hours?

Carla highlighted:

- Carla received an Email from Terry Beech office announcing the Church has been granted a Queen's Jubilee award. "Mount Seymour United Church has been awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Award for our hard work and community dedication as well as for exemplifying the spirit of the Queen's Jubilee". It will be presented in a ceremony on Thursday November 10. Carla to attend.
- Thrift Shop assistant manager Rebecca is working out well but is no longer available Saturdays. There is a potential candidate for a Saturday only job. Sharing the job will entail no extra cost and will add more staffing flexibility e.g. for covering Alexis' vacation.

**New business:**

- The Sacred garden meeting has been rescheduled for Monday November 14 at 6:30. A decision will be needed re: drop-off sheds. Get rid of the white container (rent has gone up) and purchase additional shed, add awning? - staff to consult with Steve re: costs (he will be more available after Monday)
- Thrift shop: new hours are now in place: 11-6 on Thursday. The Website has been updated accordingly.
- Stewardship campaign: Council is being asked to pledge 15% increase in order to ask the congregation for a 10% increase. Council needs to lead by example. Even if the stewardship campaign is a success, the increases will be a drop in the bucket. The ongoing budget will require more rentals, more thrift shop income etc. Council needs to make clear to the congregation the distinction between major projects funded by bequests, the memorial fund, and special appeals (such as the Garden plan and Cafe space) and the ongoing long-term needs of the church's operating budget (salaries, building maintenance etc.) Reviewing income and expenses will be a major priority for Council in 2023.

**Next meeting:** Kirsten Harkins will host at her home, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned 8:30 p.m.