

Mount Seymour United Church
Council Minutes
June 13 2023

The meeting was held at the home of Mary Sparks and was **called to order** at 6:45.

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

Regrets: Ward Branch, Jen Towers

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

Due to time constraints and the presence of guests and new members, it was agreed that the April and May **minutes** should be distributed for approval by email.

Instead of the usual **check-in** the members of council introduced themselves and their connection with the church. A special welcome was extended to new members.

Nancy read from Steve Garnis-Holmes, a **reflection** on the sending out of the disciples. Love can heal and change lives.

The business of Council was preceded by a **presentation** from Marc Coulombe on the proposed "Community of faith profile process." This would entail hiring a consultant to work with Council and the congregation in a visioning process. Lively discussion ensued.

Reports:

- Finance; Council accepted Ward's written report
- M&P: the committee has met to discuss recent staff issues, and to ensure that Carla's leave for basic training complies with United Church polity.
- Regional: Steve reported on a remit from the 44th General Council re: the removal of colonial structural barriers so that the Indigenous church can become more autonomous/self-determining within the United Church of Canada. This requires revisiting the church's Basis of Union. The council must vote on this by March 2024 - any abstentions are counted as a no vote.

New business::

- Cafe: during the pilot phase the Ministry and Personnel committee has approved the hiring decisions. M&P is now asking for Council's approval for continuing to pay the second barista after Foundry funding comes to an end (or hiring a new person if necessary.) The money is in the budget.
- ❖ Klrsten Harkens moved, Younes Skhissi seconded: That Council approve extending the contract of the second barista after the Foundry funding expires in July. **CARRIED**

- ❖ Klrsten Harkens moved, Heathir Naesgaard seconded: That Council approve hiring Jenn Farrell as Manager of the cafe as per the terms of the agreement as negotiated by M&P.
CARRIED

Correspondence

- Martin Bush on behalf of the former Preschool would like to donate \$16 000 with the stipulation that it be used to fund child care. Council proposes that it be used to create a children's space in the garden. As a backup we could suggest using it to fund child care at the church eg Sunday mornings.
 - ❖ Mary will reply with these suggestions.
- An Atrium resident complained about youthful hijinks in the parking lot and on the road until midnight after a recent rental event. For future evening rentals a line will be added to the contract about quiet respect for the neighbours when leaving the church property. .
 - ❖ Kathryn Ferriss will reply to the effect that the issue will be addressed before the event next year
- An Iranian Christian ministry would like to rent space on Sunday afternoons for about 25 congregants. Nancy will reply to offer a trial period for the summer.

Closing: Nancy re-read the passage based on the Great Commission.

Next meeting: Wednesday September 13 at 6:30 p.m.