

**Minutes of the meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Council
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C.
Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

Present: Rev. Nancy Talbot, Kelly Vogt, Kathryn Clinton, Nancy Stonkus, Doug Querns, Laura Staude, Meg Clarke, Bette Shippam, Lisa Reinders, Ward Branch, Donna Dinsmore (ex-officio)

Regrets: James Fulton

Guests: Stan Joughin representative for the A Team

Chair *Vogt* called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Rev. Talbot opened the meeting by lighting a candle to establish a Worship Centre for council. Council members then responded by sharing their highs and lows of the Christmas season. The check in process was followed by a reading from "Awed to Heaven Rooted to Earth" by Walter Brueggemann.

M/S (Shippam/Reinders) that the Amended Minutes of the Council Meeting of December 11, 2013 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**

Business Arising From Prior Meetings

Budget

The main focus of the January council meeting was to continue work on the 2014 budget. Kelly Vogt presented council with a draft budget which was a product of the decisions reached at the December council meeting. This budget was reviewed and agreed upon by council. The amended version would then be emailed to council for a final vote.

Financial Review

Kelly Vogt informed council that one of the requirements of our amended constitution is that "There shall be an annual independent examination of financial records, to determine the accuracy of financial statements, to determine whether financial transactions have been properly recorded, and to identify potential weaknesses in the accounting systems. Such an examination may be conducted by, at the discretion of the Council, an independent public accountant as an audit or a review engagement, or by an individual, who is familiar with bookkeeping and who understands the purpose of an independent examination of financial records..."

To date we have not met this requirement due to the fact we have not had the funds to support an external review which would cost approximately \$7-\$9k, and internally we have not been able to find someone who is independent or capable of performing an internal review.

After discussion council agreed to further investigate finding an internal candidate to perform the internal audit. This would be the most cost effective solution.

If however a candidate cannot be found Kelly Vogt would obtain quotes and an accounting firm could be selected and then appointed by the congregation at the AGM. However given our current financial situation if council does not wish to proceed then the congregation would be made aware of the requirement and a motion would be made to waive the requirement for an independent review for 2013. It could then be considered for the following year.

Thrift Shop Update

Meg Clarke updated council on the status of the Thrift Shop. The transition team continues to evolve as it experiments with its new independence. Bonnie Wudrick will be replacing Margie Nelson on the transition team.

AGM Planning

Council discussed the proposed agenda and a basic outline for the AGM presentation. Council felt that certain issues needed to be resolved around the new Building Project and the Joint Needs Assessment Committees findings before a firm date could be set for the AGM.

New Business

M/S (Clarke/Querns) that council accept a request from Rev. Marianna Harris that her name be put on the roll at Mount Seymour United Church so that she can become a member. **Carried.**

Council discussed the need to create a committee to organize the activities surrounding MSUC's 25th Anniversary.

Rev. Talbot closed the meeting by asking each council member to respond with one word that expressed how they felt after the conclusion of our council meeting. This was then followed by some inspirational parting words from Rev. Talbot.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**Next Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday February 12, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

Kelly Vogt, Chairman _____

Nancy Stonkus, Recording Secretary _____