

**Minutes of the Meeting of Mt. Seymour United Church Council  
Held at 1200 Parkgate Avenue, North Vancouver, BC**

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**Weds, April 8, 2015**

**Present:** Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Donna Dinsmore, Ward Branch, James Fulton, Bette Shippam, Roger Brain, Meg Clarke, Carol Kelly, Sharon Stevens.

**Regrets:** Doug Querns, Laura Staude.

Chair Shippam called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Rev. Donna Dinsmore opened the meeting and invited a check-in from the council members.

Council minutes were reviewed and amended. **M/S (W. Branch/J. Fulton) that the Minutes of the Council Meeting of March 4, 2015 be approved as circulated. Carried.**

**1) Business Arising from Prior Meetings**

**a) Ministry & Personnel Report:**

- i. Update on Associate Minister Call: The committee interviewed many candidates and were very pleased all the applicants. With great difficulty, the committee has narrowed it down to 2 candidates, and a second round of interviews is to begin next week. The committee hopes to make a decision before the next meeting, and council will be advised via email.
- ii. Review of funding of position: The hiring committee feels that the associate minister really needs to be offered as a 0.75 FTE position, rather than 0.5, as was drawn up in the 2015 budget. Funding has been secured to make up this 0.25 difference, for at least the first year, with the hope that this can be maintained longer.

**ACTION (carried from last meeting): Bette Shippam to request Treasurer provide council with an “Actuals versus Budget” (First Quarter) showing details of surplus/sabbatical funds.**

- iii. Bookkeeper position: Heidi Carota was selected as the candidate for the bookkeeping position. She is to start Friday April 10, and will be paid \$500 monthly, for approx 20 hours. She is a certified accountant, and well able to handle the scope of the job. She will be able to provide council with monthly reconciliations prior to council meetings, among other tasks.

- b) **Treasurer’s Report** – D. Querns unable to attend. Council was able to review Jan/Feb statements only. Heidi will have financial statements for the period Jan-April 2015 prepared for the next council meeting.

-In reviewing the Jan/Feb statements, several questions were raised by council  
**Action item:** Ward Branch to summarize these financial questions, and send them to Sharon Stevens and Heidi Carota who will be working on financial statements later this week.

- c) **Capital campaign report-** W. Branch

Not much to report, except that the team is working on bridge financing for the renovation, and this is expected to be sorted out very soon.

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- d) **Building renovation report** – J. Fulton
    - a) Open House: Held on 15 March 2015. Approx 32 congregants present. 1 member of public attended second hour. Alec Smith did a good job of answering all questions. Sharon B. did a great job organizing our exhibits doing the publicity.
    - b) Congregational Gift: Dorothy Redlinger was delighted to see the results of her gift a few days ago after the lawns were trimmed, edged and cut for the first time under our new contract. Thanks to Gladys Johnston for interviewing and selecting the new landscaper.
    - c) Outdoor storage building: Arrived and unloaded April 2, currently in the parking lot east side
    - d) Shape Architecture asked to provide engineering and architectural services to assist with processing the CDNV approval.
    - e) Land Survey requested by the CDNV was awarded to Hobbs, Winter and MacDonald on 27 March at a cost of \$3700.00. Delivery by 13 April is a concern as is CDNV request for a survey. CDNV Building Permit Submission still scheduled for 10 April 2015.
    - f) Architectural contract. Proceeding according to schedule. Next meeting scheduled for final sign off on Construction bid documents on 29 April. Currently negotiating with Shape the scope and cost of work outside of their contract scope.
    - g) Procurement: Installed **new awning** over preschool entry at a cost of \$2345.70, which looks great.
      - April 6/15: Place order for **96 replacement chairs** at \$4576.32, as an item which was not in the original scope but will be covered under the new estimate produced once the construction bids are received to confirm our various contingency allowances are adequate.
    - h) Concerns: CDNV approval for the Outdoor Storage Building appears more rigorous than previously advised.
    - i) Decluttering: Sharon B. is to be commended for her effort at urging various members of us to love and let go our treasured possessions before the renovation. Lots more letting go is still needed!
    - j) Hiring contractor - 5 contractors chosen to be interviewed soon. This will be decided as per schedule mid-end of May.
  - e) **Thrift Shop Update** - Last week's Maundy Thursday dinner, hosted by the church to honour thrift shop customers, was a resounding success. There were over 100 community members in attendance, and well over 25 staff/volunteers. 2015 income is up \$500/month over 2014, and they are notice a higher volume of customers.
- 2) The Thrift shop is planning to create a flyer in May to advise customers that the thrift shop will be open all summer during the renovation.

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f) **Mission and Outreach Report.** Bette Shippam shared the response from the M & O team regarding a policy for providing funds for congregation members to attend events (ie. kids camps). Rev. Nancy reminded the Council that MSUC has a long history of supporting its members in this way, and that traditionally this has been overseen by the Worship and Christian Development (WCD) Team.  
**Action item:** Bette Shippam will contact the WCD team to discuss development of clearer policy/procedures.

**3) New Business**

a) **Minister's updates:**

- a) Rev. Donna Dinsmore reflected on the positive experiences that occurred during Rev. Nancy's sabbatical. The congregation is to be commended for their efforts at stepping up to new experiences, and showing great teamwork.
- b) Rev. Nancy Talbot reported that she returns from her sabbatical feeling refreshed and energized to take on the challenges ahead. She visited many other churches during her time away, attending a wide variety of worship services.

b) **Other**

- a) CBC Radio Canada: Nancy also shared that MSUC has been selected by the french CBC Radio Canada to be a part of a documentary about the decline of the United Church of Canada. Our church was selected to represent a church that is making bold initiatives in the face of of this decline. The filming crew was here last Thursday to film Maundy Thursday dinner/Thrift Shop/Gospel Sunday. They will be returning on April 16 for a day of interviews, and on April 19 to film worship.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm

**Next Regular Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2015**

**6:30 pm**

**Minutes Approved on (Date)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bette Shippam, Council Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sharon Stevens , Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_