

**First Metropolitan United Church**  
**Church Council Meeting – January 24, 2018**  
**Draft Minutes (as of 29jan2018)**

**Present:** Moira Nasim (Hospitality Chair); Larry Scott (Secretary of Council); David Bray (Communications Chair); Edeana Malcolm, Marion Denton (Christian Spiritual Development and Worship Co-Chairs); Leanne Prestwich (Ministry & Personnel Chair); Arleigh Alexander (CYYAF Coordinator); Joan Dowse, Marie McKee (UCW Co-Chairs); Ross Breckon (Redevelopment Task Group); Janet Gray (Outreach Chair); Liane Clark (Treasurer) present by Skype; Jan Drent, (Chair of Trustees); Ivy Thomas (Interim Minister); Tammy Lindahl (Minister of Spiritual Care); Sharron Higgins, Vreny Mathis (Spiritual Care and Wellness Co-Chairs).

**Visitors:** Hayley Henderson; Kathy Cook.

**Regrets:** David Prestwich (Newcomers Chair); Don Krawciw (Children, Youth, Young Adults & Families Chair).

1. **Call to Order:** Acting Chair Marion Denton called the meeting of First Met Church Council together at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 25 in the chapel of First Met. A quorum was present.

**Motion:**

Larry Scott/ Edeana Malcolm: “That visitors be made corresponding members for this meeting.” Carried.

2. **Opening Reflection:**

Marion Denton read a reflection and prayer from “Open the Door” by Joyce Rupp.

3. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Larry Scott/Ross Breckon: “That the consent agenda be adopted as circulated.” Carried.

Agenda January 24

Council Minutes of January 15

Finance Update

Building Supervisor: Bruce Davies is appointed Building Supervisor on the retirement of Cullen Morton.

Spiritual Care: Mandate of Spiritual Care and Wellness Ministry Committee is approved.

New Members: To be received on March 4, 2018: Jan Talbot, Dawn Goodwin, Barbara Robertson, Slavi Staner, Jim & Mavis Olesen, Muriel (Anne) Carson.

4. **Correspondence:** i) **Sharon MacDonald:** Retirement letter be referred to M&P for recommendation.

ii) **Our Place:** Request to reconsider purchase offer be referred to Redevelopment Task Group.

5. **New Business:**

a) **Children, Youth, Young Adults & Families:**

Arleigh Alexander reported on youth activities and outings. Individuals are being invited to do a one-time teaching session in Sunday School. The Loft (youth room) is popular with youth and is being used by them.

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**b) Outreach**

**i) Refugee Sponsorship:**

**Motion:** Janet Gray/Jan Drent: “That First Met UC continue to work with St John the Divine Anglican on Refugee Sponsorships and that we agree to fund \$15,000 of the budgeted cost of the sponsorship of the Ghebbe Heskel family of 9.” Carried. 1 abstention by Sharron Higgins.

We already have \$44,000 in reserve for our present sponsorship and for the new sponsorship of \$15,000 with a small amount left in reserve. Two other Anglican parishes have been brought in for people support and Ghebbe’s brother has lived here several years. The support expected from us is financial, not volunteer help.

**ii) Our Place Shelter**

**Motion: Janet Gray/Liane:** “That the present lease agreement with Our Place Society be extended for another year, from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 with the same terms.” Carried. The lease would get reviewed this time next year.

**c) Ministry & Personnel: Leanne Prestwich**

Sharron Van Damme (formerly MacDonald) is retiring as of March 23, 2018.

**Motion:**

Jan Drent/David Bray: “That a task group consisting of Jan Drent, Ivy Thomas and one other, negotiate with Fiona Weber about a possible contract for up to 30 hours per week as Office Administrator/ Letting Coordinator and that Ivy Thomas be designated as her supervisor.” Carried.

**d) Budget Task Group**

Jan Drent reported that some preliminary work in reviewing the 2018 budget has been done but a large factor in determining that budget relates to the content of the Transition Team report on a new ministerial model. The timing for a congregational meeting to consider the 2018 budget would likely be in March but no later than early April.

**e) Redevelopment Task Group**

i) Ross Breckon indicated that we will livestream the February 4 presentation by Terry Harrison to the congregation; the recorded presentation will then be available on our website. Hospitality is to organize a light lunch that day.

ii) The congregational meeting to vote on the redevelopment proposal will be on March 4, 2018. Ross will locate a chair and secretary, neither of whom is on Church Council or on the Redevelopment Task Group.

iii) Letter from Our Place Society, renewing offer to purchase; Ross will answer, indicating that we are dealing with BC Conference proposal at present.

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**f) Transition Team:**

As chair of the Transition Team, Moira Nasim reported that the process is more challenging than first imagined and therefore has taken longer than initially anticipated. The Ministry Profile and Search (MPS) report might be ready in a couple of weeks (or less). Because such discussion would potentially impact existing staff positions, there should be a sequence that involves:

- i) consult with staff ii) consult with Council iii) consult with congregation.

Ivy suggested that there be an informational awareness announcement after the end of the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services on January 28. The congregation should hear that we are presently dealing with four “balls”: developing a ministry profile, developing a budget that takes seriously our financial challenges, considering a major redevelopment proposal, deciding on an appropriate governance model. Marion Denton, Ross Breckon and a member of the Budget Task Group will speak briefly to these concerns; the Transition Team will offer to meet people over coffee, following the service. There should be a follow up with a written report in a congregational email and a posting on our website.

**6. Meeting Dates:**

- i) **February 7**, 5:00 – 7:00 pm will be a **special Council meeting in camera**, to hear the report of the Transition Team. Only members of the Transition Team and voting members of Council would be present. The relevant content of the discussions should be conveyed to Staff, immediately following the meeting. Leadership: Chair, Edeana/Marion; refreshments: Janet Gray.
- ii) **February 28**, 5:00 – 7:00 pm is the regular February meeting of Council. Leadership: to be decided at February 7 meeting.
- iii) **March 4** is a Congregational Meeting. As noted in the Redevelopment Task Group report, Ross Breckon will identify a Chair and a Secretary for March 4th.
- iv) **Council** should plan to meet immediately after the Congregational Meeting on **March 4**, to ratify the relevant motions that go to our Board of Trustees. The Trustees act on motions from Council rather than on congregational motions.

**7. Outstanding Business:**

- i) Council has previously committed to provide \$5,000 to the Therapeutic Recovery Centre (Minutes, September 27, 2017 - Outreach, p. 2) without naming someone to manage this appeal. Janet Gray agreed to consult Treasurer.
- ii) There is no nominating process for 2018. Deferred.

**8. Council Highlights:**

The Secretary confirmed which Council Highlights from this meeting, should appear in this coming Sunday’s bulletin.

**9. Closing Prayer** – Ivy Thomas gave a closing prayer.

**10. Adjournment** – Marion Denton adjourned the meeting at 7:16 pm.

Acting Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marion Denton

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Scott