

METRO VANCOUVER ALLIANCE meeting

Saturday, November 24, 2018

1. Deb Cameron-Fox (UFCW 15) is the new President of the MVA. Deb is also an ordained Minister, and a chaplain.
2. **Funds:** the Metro Vancouver Alliance is short of funds. Although there are 75 member organizations in the MVA, fewer than half are paid up. MVA organizer, Tracey Maynard's salary is consistently not being paid on time each month. MVA requests that Fairview forward MVA the \$750 in dues as soon as is practicable.

MVA is giving consideration to raising the annual dues to \$1250 in order to sustain the organization. The Victoria MVA took this step last year, and it has proven to put the Victoria MVA in a more favourable financial position.

In the interim, the BCGEU has donated \$7500 to keep the MVA afloat, until such time as all outstanding monies owed have been paid.

Bob Doll. Note should be made that Bob Doll has long been, and continues to remain, a sustaining donor to the Metro Vancouver Alliance. United Church Minister Barry Morris was asking after Bob at the meeting on Saturday, and will seek to contact Bob soon.

3. **Reconciliation.** A significant initiative undertaken by the Metro Vancouver Alliance, as led by a number of churches and individuals, including United Church Minister Barry Morris, Dan Mackenzie and a group of others, including aboriginal leaders. Scott Clark, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement Society, was among many who presented on the issue of reconciliation, and adoption by churches across Vancouver of action-oriented initiatives to address what, in our case, Fairview Baptist Church can do to meet its obligation to our indigenous peoples. To the end, Scott Clark, Barry Morris, Dan Mackenzie, and others, propose to meet after the service, on a Sunday in the New Year to address the issue of Fairview Baptist Church moving forward on the very important issue of reconciliation, the least part of which is beginning each service with a reconciliation acknowledgment.
4. **Housing.** Audrey Anne Guay, the leader of the MVA Housing Team would like to meet with the Fairview Baptist Church congregation post service, at some point in the New Year, to discuss how our church might move forward – as other churches have – in creating affordable housing, for seniors and others in our community. Christine Boyle, a United Church Minister at the nearby Canadians Memorial United Church, working with United Church Ministers and Boards of Directors with 20 United Churches across the Metro Vancouver region, announced in February of this year at United Church plan to build 20 two-hundred unit affordable rental housing buildings – which is to say, 4000

units of affordable housing across Metro Vancouver – the cost of construction paid for by the provincial government out of the \$10.6 billion housing fund. Each municipality has agreed to expedite the approval process, and not charge development permit fees. No property taxes will be levied, either, on the church properties on which the new rental buildings are located. Construction has already begun on the United Church site at 11th and Victoria Drive, in Vancouver.

Otherwise, the following items were discussed ...

Social Isolation. Paul Clark is the leader of the Social Inclusion Unit of the MVA, from whom and about which we will be hearing a great deal more in the New Year.

Diversifying Membership. In the New Year, the MVA will move to diversify its membership to include diverse ethnic, gender variant, indigenous and other members of the community, in order to better reflect the community in which we all live.

“Listening season”. January to April has been designated as the Listening Season for the Metro Vancouver Alliance, when the MVA will reach out to each of its 75 member organizations to develop a plan going forward to make the MVA an organization that is more responsive to, and reflective of, its members, and their desires for a more vibrant, action-oriented MVA.

Poverty reduction strategy. Arising from the good work of the Metro Vancouver Alliance, the provincial government this month introduced and passed a poverty reduction strategy, the details of the plan to be laid out in legislation to be introduced this next March in Victoria.

Also ...

Respect, Dignity, shared values. Living out your values in public.

“What we want for ourselves, we want for all” - J. S. Woodsworth.

Solidarity, Community, Justice, Fairness.

Reconciliation: Three step plan: **Recognition** (being educated to the issues), **Restoration** (how can we give back that which we took away from our indigenous peoples), and **Restitution**.

Housing, affordable housing in every neighbourhood: Undoing the harm done by the Bartholomew Plan, created between 1926 and 1948 by Harland Bartholomew for the Vancouver Town Planning Commission, designed to keep affordable housing out of the majority of Vancouver neighbourhoods, creating neighbourhoods of the destitute like the DTES.

The Metro Vancouver Alliance will not organize around the 2019 federal election.