

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 2017

Present:

Council: Ric Graham (Chair), Catherine Glover (Outreach and Social Justice), Stuart Cunningham (Spiritual Life and Worship), Pauline Newton (Secretary), Margaret Smith (Rose Birrell), Steve Britton (Presbytery), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), Sharon Ashton, (Presbytery), Allyn Todd (Trustees), Jim Sweitzer (Congregational Resources), Mike Ashton (Communications) Lynn McClary, Heather Elliott, Anita Elworthy (Congregational Life),

Staff: Rev. Isaac Mundy,

Regrets: John Burns (Property), Randy Donkervoort, Rev. Sheila Macgregor

Ric called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and Isaac led us in an opening prayer.

Correspondence: None

Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 council meeting as presented. Moved by Allyn, seconded by Steve. Carried.

Key Discussions:

Heather reported that Arva will plant a tree at Siloam in lieu of the 150th anniversary tree which could not be moved. This will not happen until after renovations to the Siloam sign.

160th Anniversary - Ric thanked Margaret and the Anniversary Committee for the marvelous celebration of our 160th anniversary. Margaret shared with us that the preliminary report showed that over \$20,000 was raised at the Spinney event. On November 5th Rev. John Lougheed will be the guest speaker which will complete the planned activities. Margaret stated that she hoped we could keep up the momentum that was generated over this past year.

Stewardship Campaign: The campaign will take place over three Sundays, November 12, 19 and 26. The focus is to remind the congregation that our role as church members is to be good stewards. There will be a letter going to all members of the congregation at the beginning of the campaign outlining our goals. Included in the letter will be generosity cards to be completed and handed back indicating their financial commitment for next year. These cards will be collected and dedicated at the November 26th service. The goal is to wake up the stewardship spirit among the congregation and to focus on outreach. Anita suggested that we also pass a basket where people could indicate their time commitment to Siloam to increase participation, as stewardship is not just about giving money. We also need to reconfirm that everyone is welcome regardless of their ability to give financially.

Advent Fundraising: This year's Advent Campaign will be to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. This will tie in with the kickoff of the Stewardship Campaign.

Catherine also brought forth the idea of selling long standing mission gift cards with \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00 values that could be purchased and given as gifts. The gift cards could be for Habitat, ELUCO, Mission & Service Fund, LIRSA, Memorial Fund, etc. This money could then be used to fulfill our mission and outreach commitments, freeing up money from the general fund. Catherine made the point that it is easier to generate money through tangible projects than it is to ask people to fund the operating budget.

Jim raised a concern about who is going to manage the project. The money cannot just be rolled into the general fund. He and Catherine will work through the logistics together. We also need to expand how we deliver this project. Mike indicated that he could put it on the website.

Catherine asked if members of council could stay and help with the sorting and distribution of the white gifts after the service and reception on December 3rd.

Sharon brought to our attention that there is a No Frills Gift Card for \$150 that was ordered by Jean Cage in September 2016. She has not been able to locate this lady or anyone who knows her. It was agreed by consensus that Sharon use the gift card for ELUCO and if we ever locate Jean Cage she could be reimbursed the money.

New Operating Account has been opened at Libro with a \$100,000 line of credit. Mike asked if there was any accommodation for a credit card. Ric will look into setting up a credit card with a maximum of \$2,500. The card will have to have a name attached to it and Dick was asked if we could use his name as treasurer. A system will be set up to pay off any balance on the card as soon as the statement is received so that it will not impact Dick's credit rating. Ric is also to set up a transition meeting. The signing authorities will be Ric, Dick, Catherine and Lynn.

Revised Contracts: Isaac reported that Carla has agreed to the new proposed contract for Youth Choir Director. Isaac presented the preliminary contracts for the 3 contract positions, namely: Youth Choir Director, Youth Ministry Team Lead and Student Program Assistants. Allyn asked if we had a Faith Formation Committee. Isaac will put this in place before he leaves. The committee would act as an advisory committee for the contract positions.

MOTION: To approve in concept the 3 contract positions as provided by Isaac and to turn them over to M&P for review and formatting.

Moved by Catherine, seconded by Heather. Carried

Updated Job Descriptions: Joy presented updated job descriptions for the Lead Minister and the Youth Minister.

MOTION: That council approve the job descriptions for Lead Minister and Youth Minister as presented.

Moved by Joy, seconded by Anita. Carried

The matter of potential moving expenses for the lead minister has been referred to M&P for further clarification (no action required). The job descriptions will be filed in the policies binder in the narthex.

Process for Dealing with a New Ministry Position: Pauline circulated a flow chart outlining the process. The Handbook for Discerning and Declaring Ministry Vacancies

can be accessed at www.londonconference.ca/files/documents/levhandbook-0314.pdf. The first step is to put together a committee to create a ministry profile and position description. It was felt that we should complete the EDGE Visioning Process before embarking on this first step. It was suggested that we place an invitation in the bulletin early in the new year for people interested in serving on this committee.

Healing and Wellness: Janet has extended an invitation to members of council to participate in some of the Healing and Wellness events.

Financial Update – Reports are attached

We could be looking at a projected deficit at yearend of \$40,000 unless we can make some changes. If we have any hope of a balanced budget by yearend, we will have to make some tough decisions at our next council meeting. All committee chairs were asked to bring ideas of where we can save money and what we can cut. Catherine suggested that the free will offering from the Cantata be mission focused as people tend to be more generous if they feel they are contributing to something concrete.

Trustees: Allyn reported that the sale of the Arva Property will not be complete until October 27th. Any closing expenses will be covered by the proceeds of the sale. He also asked that when we are applying for HST rebates that the trustees be contacted for any HST that they have paid. This would also apply to the Rose Birrell Group for any HST they have paid out

Staff/Committee Reports are attached.

Margaret suggested we should all get behind current projects such as the Ham & Turkey drive by making some phone calls to people to generate more sales.

Heather suggested that if we could change the areas of the building that are currently heated electrically to gas, it would qualify as a capital project and could be paid out of the Arva sale funds. This would reduce our heating costs significantly.

Council members were asked to come to the next meeting with ideas for capital projects.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Jim, seconded by Anita Carried.

Isaac led us in a closing prayer.

Next Meeting Date: November 21, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Ric Graham, Chair

Pauline Newton, Recording