

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Present:

Council: Ric Graham (Chair), Pauline Newton (Secretary), Margaret Smith (Rose Birrell), Steve Britton (Presbytery), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), Allyn Todd (Trustees), Jim Sweitzer (Congregational Resources), Lynn McClary, Heather Elliott, Harla O'Neil (Congregational Life), John Burns (Property), Randy Donkervoort (M&P), Sharon Ashton, (Presbytery), Mike Ashton (Communications)

Staff: Rev. Sheila Macgregor

Regrets: Catherine Glover (Outreach and Social Justice), Stuart Cunningham (Spiritual Life and Worship), Joy Jackson (M&P)

Ric called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Sheila led us in an opening prayer.

Margaret brought to our attention that the Food Grains Project raised \$5,188 this year through the efforts of Pete and Lynn McClary and Mary Jo Fraleigh. She suggested that next year we film the planting, growing and harvesting of the crop and post it on our website in order to promote Food Grains as a Siloam project. It was also suggested that with Mary Jo Fraleigh's permission, we put up a sign in the field promoting it as a Siloam United Church Food Grains project.

Sheila had also attended a performance at First St. Andrew's U.C. where Todd was performing and noted in his bio that he did not mention that he was the director of music at Siloam. M&P to ask Todd if he could include his position at Siloam in his bio in the future.

Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 21st, 2017 council meeting as amended to show a change in date from 2016 to 2017 under HST Rebate on Page 4. Moved by Jim, seconded by John. Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

Margaret had some concerns with regard to the motion that was passed at the November 21st meeting regarding all fundraising events being directed towards mission projects and how that would affect the Rose Birrell Group with regard to their fundraising and how the could be used. As a result the motion was amended as follows:

MOTION:

To amend the motion passed at the November 21, 2017 meeting to read "Effective January 1, 2018 all outreach fundraising events will be advertised to indicate the mission focus of the event"

Moved by Allyn, seconded by Randy. Carried

Agenda: Items to be added to the agenda are as follows:

- Trustees
- Congregational Life

Financial Update – Jim provided us with a very comprehensive written report with regard to our financial status year to date. It would appear that our givings are in line with previous years and are in fact higher as of the end of November in 2017 than in any previous year. The problem with meeting our budget stems from the inflated 2017 plan to actual of 21.2% as a result of some faulty reporting practices in the past. Jim stressed that we need to keep real numbers in mind when setting the 2018 budget and that they would be looking at better ways to identify revenue and expenses.

A new savings account is being set up at LIBRO. This account will hold deposit from the grant money received in support of the October 2018 Boomerfest event. Currently there is \$10,000 to be deposited. It was received from the United Church of Canada Foundation.

A new VISA Credit Card is also being set up at LIBRO.

Jim received a cheque from Lois Bernasconi for \$1,250 to be used toward paying the music students in our choir between January and June. Allyn indicated that the Trustees have also received \$2,000 for music students for 2018. At the present time the two music students are each paid \$60 per week which works out to over \$5,000 per year. It was agreed by consensus that the 2018 budget for music students will be set at \$4,000. Jim will contact Todd to advise him of this decision.

Request from Birr United Church

Ric has been contacted by Birr United Church who requested an exploratory meeting with Siloam with regard to amalgamation. Ric has set up a small committee who will meet with the Birr representatives this evening to do some fact finding and to determine if there is to be a next step. Birr is also meeting with two other churches on the same fact finding mission.

Nominating Committee

Erin is putting together a form where people can indicate where their gifts and talents lie. Once this is completed she will send to Pauline to forward to all council members for editing. The form will then be sent out to the congregation in early January asking people to complete and return them by a specific date. Ric and Pauline have agreed to be on the nominating committee. Ric to contact committee chairs to find out what positions need to be filled. The AGM will be held immediately after the service on February 11th, 2018.

Finance Coordinator Position

Jim has recommended that we continue the Finance Coordinator position in its present form for the calendar year January 1 to December 31, 2018 to provide some flexibility as the job evolves. David has prepared a very comprehensive job description that Jim will forward to Joy Jackson, Catherine Glover, Dick Huffman and Randy Donkervoort for their review prior to a meeting in January 2018 to review the job description with M&P.

MOTION

To rescind the motion passed at the November 21st meeting with regard to the Financial Coordinator position.

Moved by Jim, seconded by Dick. Carried.

A decision regarding the new remuneration package for this position has been tabled until the January meeting but will be retroactive to January 1, 2018.

Budget

Jim sent out the 2018 Draft Budget Format prior to the meeting. Hearing no objections from any of the council members, he will proceed with this format. He will be meeting with the various committee chairs re their anticipated expenses for the year and will bring a draft budget to the January meeting

2018 Salary & Benefits

Randy presented a summary of salary and benefits for 2018 for Sheila and Erin.

MOTION

To adopt the 2018 Salary and Benefits package as presented.

Moved by Randy, seconded by Lynn. Carried.

Pauline asked about housing allowance and Allyn replied that the Trustees anticipated that they would be able to cover between \$12,000-\$15,000, depending on the interest on their investments, to be paid by yearend.

Council approved by consensus the attendance of seven of our key staff and volunteer people to a new Boundaries Workshop offered by London Conference at a cost of \$35.00 per person for a total of \$245.00.

Randy reminded everyone that the Visioning Meeting is on Monday, January 15th at 7:00.

Trustees

The property insurance policy has been renewed. Allyn asked for a decision from council if we wanted to continue with \$5 million in liability. The difference in cost between \$2 million and \$5 million is \$300. Council agreed by consensus to keep our liability at \$5 million. Payments are due January 1, February 1 and March 1.

Questions:

- Could the piano in the library donated by Elaine Clarke be sold? Not at this time.
- Has Arva account money been received? Not as yet.
- Waiting for invoice for extra copies of cantata music.
- Has bell choir music been purchased?

Congregational Life

Harla was approached by someone inquiring if Siloam might organize a monthly bring your own or potluck lunch for people who regularly eat alone. Sheila indicated that we used to have a group called Young at Heart who regularly got together. Sheila indicated that she would be willing to organize a pilot project to see how many people would be interested and how they would like to proceed.

Harla also indicated that she had a complaint from a member of the congregation that the music being sung by the junior choir is not appropriate for the age group. This will be passed along to Spiritual Life & Worship.

In closing Sheila led us in The Lord's Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting Date: January 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Ric Graham, Chair

Pauline Newton, Recording