

SILOAM UNITED CHURCH
Minutes of Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Present:

Council: Ric Graham (Chair), Randy Donkervoort (Amalgamation Committee), Stuart Cunningham (Spiritual Life and Worship), Pauline Newton (Secretary), Margaret Smith (Rose Birrell), Steve Britton (Presbytery), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), Sharon Ashton, (Presbytery), John Burns (Property)

Staff: Rev. Sheila Macgregor, Rev. Isaac Mundy

Regrets: Kevin Webb (Communications) Catherine Glover (Outreach and Social Justice), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life), Allyn Todd (Trustees)

Ric called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone. He congratulated Margaret Smith on the sellout of the ham and scallop potato dinner and the ministers and musical staff on the outstanding Easter Service on Sunday. Sheila led us in an opening prayer.

Committee chairs were reminded to designate a representative from their committee to attend council if they are unavailable to attend to ensure that we have quorum.

MOTION: To make Randy Donkervoort and Margaret Smith voting members of council for the meeting.

Moved by Stu, seconded by Steve. Carried.

Correspondence: We received a letter from Monteith Ritsma Phillips informing us that Siloam United Church has been named as one of the beneficiaries in the Last Will and Testament of Stan McDonald. They will advise us when the estate assets have been administered and are ready for distribution.

Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 21st, 2017 council meeting as presented. Moved by Stu, seconded by Randy. Carried.

Business arising from the minutes: Stu asked about the Sanctuary Lighting upgrade. Randy indicated that it has been discussed at the amalgamation meeting and Mike Ashton has gotten some quotes. The question of a church credit card came up again. It was decided that we should wait until after we hear back from Doug Colley regarding his willingness to take on bookkeeping duties at Siloam before we make a decision.

Agenda: Under Current Issues, add Congregational Resources and Affirming Congregation

Financial Report:

The HST rebate in the neighborhood of \$10,000 has been received and will show up in the April Operating Report. Isaac indicated that last month the youth ministry expenses were paid out of general funds instead of the new ministry funds but that has now been corrected. Our deficit to the end of March is \$20,216.13.

The two new savings accounts have now been set up, one to hold the refugee money and one for the anniversary fund. Anniversary money currently being held in the general account will be transferred to the anniversary account. The process for the anniversary account is that Margaret must sign off on the requisition for any expenses being paid out of that account and June Sunseth will be responsible for making deposits to the account as directed by Margaret.

Rick Graham presented an idea to help boost the budget. He proposed a free chicken barbecue ticket to the first 16 people who either sign up for PAR or boost their givings to PAR by at least 10%. He will send out an email blast which will include the scatter gram of giving levels from 2016 and will make a presentation to the congregation on Sunday, April 23rd. Forms to sign up for PAR or increase givings will be available in the narthex

Current Issues

MOTION:

That Jim Sweitzer be recommended as the Chair of the Congregational Resources Committee, along with the revision to the Governance model, according to the stated objective as printed and that new members be added to the committee as required. Moved by Stu, seconded by John. Carried.

Support for Jen Prince

Ric received a letter from Jen Prince indicating that she was in financial difficulty with regard to being able to afford to attend the 2 week Leadership Development Module in Winnipeg in preparation for her studies in diaconal ministry. The cost of tuition, air fare and accommodation would be approximately \$2,200.00.

Action: Ric will have a conversation with the Trustees as well as Jen to discuss setting up a Ministry Formation Fund to which members of the congregation could make contributions to help Jen and future ministry students with expenses.

Amalgamation Update: (written report attached)

The vote was conducted at both churches. Siloam was unanimous with 111 votes in favour. Arva had 26 in favour and 1 not in favour. The committee divided the Action Plan into three key areas: Trustees, Integration, and Care and Display of Historical Items. Randy will take the lead on the marriage of the two budgets for this year. The celebration of the new congregation will be done in two parts. The first welcoming service will be on June 25th (the Siloam Choir will extend for the extra Sunday) and the second service will be September 17 when the liturgical symbols from Arva will be dedicated. Randy will lead on the care and display of these historical items and records. There is a full court meeting on April 15th at First St. Andrews. All committee members have agreed to attend.

EDGE visioning process: Due to the fact that the key players at Arva are feeling some

burnout as a result of the amalgamation process, it has been decided to delay the EDGE visioning process to January 2018 when they have had a chance to recharge their batteries.

Staff/Committee Reports

Sheila (written report attached)

- Increase in members who need pastoral care
- Rev. Janette Fradette to share leadership in the Healing and Wellness Committee with Pastor Janelle Towle
- 3 new study groups in the offing
- Grandparenting Workshop on April 29 and May 13

Isaac (written report attached)

Property

- Choir room has been completed. John & Jane Davidson did the painting and the Rose Birrell Group paid for the new carpet
- The kitchen is the next target for repairs
- Looking for volunteers for the Chicken BBQ

Spiritual Life and Worship (written report attached)

- Messy Church – May 13
- Pulpit Supply – John Lougheed – possibly November 5
- Name tags: it was mentioned that very few people wear their name tags and many do not have name tags. It was suggested that we order name tags for all members and perhaps have a magnetic board in the narthex where people could pick up their name tag at the beginning of the service and deposit it back after the service. Randy and Stu to look into this.
- Stu distributed a Fact Sheet from the United Church of Canada Foundation

Outreach and Social Justice

Catherine shared some good news regarding the Syrian Mother and Son (Sameerah Nasser Hussien and her son Raad) whom we have agreed to sponsor. She received a notice from the United Church of Canada Office in Toronto that there is hope that our application will be submitted to Winnipeg to Immigration Canada at the end of this month. She has advised the relatives in Canada and all have fingers crossed. The Outreach Committee will be meeting on April 30th immediately after Worship. They have two new members: Noralee Jackett and John Davidson. She will be able to report the results of our Lenten Food Grains campaign at the May meeting.

Congregational Life

- Will be assisting with refreshments at the Forest City Singers Concert on April 28
- Will be providing refreshments for the Grandparenting Workshops on April 29 & May 13

Trustees

- The Siloam and Arva trustees will be working together to look after the sale of the Arva property. Al Appleby will be assisting as well.
- The new metal roof has been included in the insurance policy effective December 1, 2016.

Rose Birrell Group

- The ham and scallop potato dinner on April 18 is sold out
- May 10 they are having a fashion show
- For their June meeting, they have invited the ladies from Arva to attend for a complimentary catered luncheon.

Anniversary Update:

- Anniversary tree planting will be April 23rd – trees donated by Dave and Jane Hilton.
- Ann & Randy are looking after the silent auction at the Spinney Gala. A letter will be going out to members of the congregation looking for donated items.
- Tickets will go on sale right after the Chicken BBQ.

Presbytery

- Remits 5, 7 and 8 have been passed by Presbytery. Remit 8 expands the power of adherent members.
- Under the new 3 model council, there will be one regional rep and one minister representing each church

The item regarding Affirming Congregation under Current Issues has been deferred until our next meeting.

Isaac led us in a closing prayer.

Next Meeting Date: May 16, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Ric Graham, Chair

Pauline Newton, Recording