

**Siloam United Church - Minutes of Council Meeting**  
**April 13, 2021 at 10:30**  
**Held electronically via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Catherine Glover (chair), Steve Britton (Regional Representative), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer/Congregational Resources), Lynn McClary (Chair-Elect), Pauline Newton (M&P), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life), Betty Ross (Rose Birrell), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Heather Elliott (secretary)

**Regrets:** Anita Elworthy (Congregational Life)

**Guest:** Randy Donkervoort – in attendance during Siloam garden discussion

Chair Glover called the meeting to order.

Rev. Sheila shared the following points with council regarding digital ministry. Sheila has also shared this information with the staff members:

1. Update the website to better introduce the staff – i.e. a short video of each staff member. We need to remember that some people visiting the website may not be familiar with visiting a church.
2. We need more touch points throughout the week – focusing on more than morning worship.
3. Provide an on-line platform for those who want to discuss the service further. We could provide breakout rooms for discussions.
4. Be open to discussion and questions asked but be clear about what the church believes.
5. Encourage people to move around during a service.
6. Find a volunteer that can respond to chats on-line. Have a minister that can provide a chat if someone who visits the website is looking for immediate help.
7. Provide courses on marriage, grief support, parenting etc.
8. Put together a short prayer resource that can be sent via e-mail.
9. On the days that there isn't a message being sent out could we offer a zoom group? i.e. book or bible study
10. Can we find out how many people respond to different themes introduced on Sundays?
11. How do we develop different ways to worship in person that make that experience different from watching an on-line worship? i.e. providing meal/coffee after the worship?
12. Do more video interviews with people within the congregation and outside the congregation that have special messages to share.
13. We can no longer depend on people only attending worship in the sanctuary. We need a hybrid model of worshipping on-line and in person. "The church is a digital organization with a personal presence"
14. Remember that the best givers may not be attending in person worship.
15. Set aside 40% of budget for digital on-line ministry.

Moving forward, a quote to consider from Depak Chopra, "Instead of thinking outside of the box, get rid of the box"

Catherine suggested that these points be reviewed by spiritual life and worship with the communication team and recommendations be forwarded to council.

Rev. Sheila then opened the council meeting with prayer.

**Correspondence:** Letter received from Indwell congratulating Siloam for the successful Lenten project.

**Motion:** To approve the minutes dated March 16, 2021. Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Betty Ross. Motion carried.

**Motion:** To accept the agenda, as amended.  
Moved by Pauline Newton, seconded by Lynn McClary. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Siloam Garden - Randy Donkervoort joined the meeting as a guest to report on the Siloam Garden. Randy reported that various volunteer groups attend the garden site with members of Urban Roots to work in the garden. A gate for the garden has been donated by the Donaldson family. Pauline asked about how the garden will be watered. Randy confirmed that Urban Roots will be providing a large tank for water, so they will not depend on the church's well. The media/press release planned for Mother's Day Sunday has been postponed due to Covid19. We have not received notice if the student grant applications have been approved yet. We have received a grant of \$2,500 from the U.C. of Canada that will go toward topping-up the student minimum wage. Randy indicated that there will be a fundraiser for fruit trees. \$80 donations purchase a fruit tree, that will bear fruit for many years. The garden fundraiser will not start until after the givings campaign is complete. Randy will be setting-up a volunteer registry for Siloam members interested in helping in the garden.

**Motion:** To offer a fundraising effort to plant 75 fruit trees and root stalk for the garden. Moved by Margaret Smith, seconded by John Davidson. Motion carried.

**Motion:** That Council ask the Trustees for \$3,000 to support the start-up costs of the Urban Garden Project. \$2,500 for the capital costs as per the URL Budget and \$500 to pay for the soil testing and zoning fees.

**Moved** by, Pauline Newton, seconded by John Davidson. Motion Carried.  
(Randy Donkervoort left the meeting)

M&P update:

**Motion:** To move to in camera discussion.  
Moved by Lynn McClary, seconded by Margaret Smith. Motion carried.

Pauline Newton provided a M&P report to council.

**Motion:** To return to open council meeting.  
Moved by Steve Britton, seconded by Dave Dunham. Motion carried.

Request for study of identifiable givers of 2019 versus 2020: Margaret Smith expressed concern about the list of identifiable givers. There is a distinct reduction in the number of givers, especially in the higher amount categories. Dick Huffman noted that there was a loss of 88 givers at the end of 2020. Catherine asked if congregational resources could look at this report in preparation of the congregational annual meeting.

Good News Moment – Margaret Smith provided the following report to council: Rev. Carol Reardon Smith invited the Rose Birrell Quilters group to take part in an initiative started by the air orange helicopter pilots to deliver quilts in the Atawaskapt and Moosenee area, where the residents are suffering from the extreme cold. The Siloam quilters were able to provide three quilts. Fortunately, Rev. Smith received thirty quilts which will leave London on April 13, 2021, via air ambulance. The Siloam quilters were happy to be a part of this project.

Spiritual Life and Worship Margaret Smith reported that the committee will be meeting on April 30, 2021. They are currently looking for a volunteer to be the scripture reader organizer. If anyone on council has a person in mind for the position, please let Margaret know.

**Continuing Business** Youth and Young Adult Ministry: Catherine provided a report of the progress of the steering committee regarding the potential for a youth ministry collaboration with other local United Churches. She noted that such a position would be a shared cost with other churches. Council agreed that the steering committee should continue their exploration.

Music Director Search – Lynn McClary reviewed with council the job description prepared by the search committee for a music director. Council asked to include a reference to child and youth music in the job description

**Motion:** That council accept the music director job position description with the addition of a reference to child and youth music.  
Moved by Lynn McClary, seconded by Pauline Newton. Motion carried.

Council discussed the budget for the music director salary. Pauline noted that a position of 14 hours or more requires that benefits be paid. She recommended that this position should be a part-time permanent position rather than an independent contract position.

**Motion:** That the committee be given a \$30,000 budget (salary including benefits) for the music director position.  
Moved by Lynn McClary, seconded by Pauline Newton. Motion carried.

It was noted that should the search committee be unable to find someone within the budget agreed upon that they return to council for review. Lynn noted that the search committee recommends there be a probationary period of four months for the newly hired music director. Pauline suggested that a four-month probationary contract be set-

up with the option of hiring as a part-time permanent position after the four-month probation.

**Motion:** Council provide the search committee \$400 for advertising of the music director position.

Moved by Lynn McClary, seconded by Dave Dunham. Motion carried.

Giving Campaign Update – Dick Huffman reported that an e-mail was circulated to the congregation announcing the givings campaign. As well there will be videos circulated during the campaign sharing information about ELUCO and M&S. As well Dick will keep the congregation updated on the progress of the campaign.

Reopening Date – Margaret Smith noted that The Rose Birrell is looking forward to the reopening of the church for their events. Catherine indicated that she plans to call a meeting of the reopening committee once the Province lockdown is over.

Chair Glover adjourned the meeting. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting – **May 18, 2021** at 10:30

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Catherine Glover Chair

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Heather Elliott, Secretary