

Siloam United Church - Minutes of Council Meeting

October 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting held both via ZOOM and in person at Siloam United Church

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Catherine Glover (chair), Steve Britton (Regional Representative), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer and Congregational Resources), Pauline Newton (M&P), Betty Ross (Rose Birrell), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life and Secretary)

Opening:

Chair Glover welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Rev. Sheila opened the meeting with prayer.

Opening Reflection:

Chair Glover used a prayer written by Rev. Murray Pruden, Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries & Justice, The United Church of Canada as our opening reflection. A monthly reflection will be shared with Siloam members/adherents through an e-blast as part of our process to become an affirming church community.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Betty Ross that the minutes of September 21, 2021 be adopted as printed. CARRIED

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Pauline Newton that the agenda, as printed, be approved. CARRIED

Correspondence:

The following items were acknowledged: a card from Jen Prince expressing her thanks for the support received from Siloam over the past years and her parting gifts; a letter from the United Church of Canada to acknowledge Siloam's gift in memory of the children who died at Residential Schools; and a letter from the Christian Resource Centre in Mitchell requesting financial support.

Continuing Business:

Update on Contributions to the Healing Fund

Margaret Smith reported that the Rose Birrell Unit donated \$50 to the United Church Healing Fund. She also mentioned that \$122.50 was received in donations on September 26--Siloam's Sunday to acknowledge Truth and Reconciliation Day. This money will be sent to the Healing Fund as well.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Chair Glover announced that Bill Gillan has stepped aside as a representative for Siloam in the Shared Youth and Young Adult Ministry group--Mark Davidson and Abby Keunecke will be Siloam's representatives. Training has been done for this group and a first meeting of all reps from the three churches has taken place.

Financial Update

Dick Huffman reported on the statements previously distributed to Council members and added other financial pieces of information.

M&P Committee Recommendation Regarding Clergy Hours

Motion: Moved by Betty Ross and seconded by Pauline Newton to move to In Camera meeting. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Allyn Todd that we return to open council meeting. CARRIED

Summary of in-camera discussion: the M&P Committee is satisfied that solid information has been provided regarding the volume of work that is being done by Rev. Ann Corbet with regard to Pastoral Care and Visitation and that she be given more hours to complete this needed work.

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by John Davidson that Siloam increase hours for Rev. Ann Corbet from 15 hours/week to 20 hours/week commencing January 1, 2022. CARRIED

Property Committee Report re: rentals, custodial service/grounds maintenance contracts

Dave Dunham indicated that the current grounds maintenance person may wish to continue in his role thus eliminating the need to look elsewhere for a new person(s).

Rentals are starting to return. The Scouts (free use of the building) are back and a Cub group will be starting soon. The Royal Conservatory of Music has indicated it will return in the new year. Dave will be in touch with representatives of two new rental inquiries. Dave cautioned that more rentals means an increase in duties for the custodian with whom Dave will speak.

It was stressed that a written document be made available to renters outlining guidelines that must be adhered to, e.g. proper insurance, covid requirements. This document would have to be signed by all renters. The property committee will discuss current rental rates and the possibility of increasing said rates. **ACTION:** Dave/Property Committee to draw up the aforementioned document regarding rentals.

The Chancel Committee has been offered space to store supplies in the cupboards in the Nursery. **ACTION:** John and Jane Davidson will liase with Allison O'Connor to settle on what

space she needs for her Dreams Come True supplies. After that is done, there may be extra space for the Chancel Committee in one of the Sunday School rooms.

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Part-Time Communication Position

Allyn Todd summarized the technical duties that could be done by someone, other than an Office Administrator, in 7 hours/week. Allyn and Mike Ashton have confirmed that Rock Neto is capable of doing these duties and is interested in adding the hours to his current workload at Siloam. **Motion:** Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Pauline Newton that we extend an offer of up to an additional 7 hours/week to Rock Neto under his current contract as Audio System Operator to take on the tech support duties previously done by the Office Administrator and Mike Ashton. Rate of pay will be the same as currently provided under Rock's current contract. This extension of duties will be on a trial basis until the end of 2021 at which time Rock's annual contract is due for renewal and if acceptable by both Rock and Siloam at that point, the additional duties would be written into his contract for 2022. CARRIED

Recruitment for Council Positions

Although Chair Glover has agreed to continue in her leadership role for one more year, it is imperative that we find someone to fill the Chair-Elect vacancy. All Council members were urged to pass along any suggestions to Rev. Sheila or Catherine.

New Business:

It is felt that people would be more comfortable attending church if Siloam required proof of vaccination. **Motion:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Dick Huffman that as of December 1, 2021 Siloam will require all people coming to worship to produce proof of vaccination. CARRIED **ACTION:** The Re-Opening Committee will work out details associated with this decision.

Rev. Sheila expressed reasons for giving some financial support to the Christian Resource Centre in Mitchell. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Betty Ross that Siloam donate \$200 to the Christian Resource Centre in Mitchell. CARRIED

Margaret Smith spoke to the fact that because of covid there has been very little financial help given to the Dreams Come True group and there has certainly not been a Siloam visible presence connected to the group. Margaret asked that we extend \$500 from the Spiritual Life and Worship budget to support the next Dreams Come True virtual production with the stipulation that the group acknowledges Siloam's support in some way, e.g. a banner. It was also felt that Siloam needs to develop a more formal business-related partnership with Allison O'Connor with regard to her requests for financial support from the church. Helping Dreams

Come True with expenses such as cost of music, buying ZOOM time, etc. is a perfect way to express our aim to become an affirming church. **Motion:** Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Pauline Newton that Council support the request for the next Dreams Come True concert in the amount of \$500 from the Spiritual Life and Worship Budget. CARRIED

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Staff/Committee Reports:

Betty Ross reminded everyone of the upcoming Rose Birrell Christmas bazaar on November 6. This year registration for the event will be required and there will be no Attic Treasures section or food service offered. Posters are available if any Council member wishes to pick some up.

Dave Dunham and John Davidson confirmed that Siloam will conduct a Ham and Turkey Drive again this year.

Chair Glover reminded members of the special upcoming council meeting, via ZOOM, on Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Sheila closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Council will meet next on November 16 at 7:00 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary