

Siloam United Church - Minutes of Council Meeting

November 16, 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 read a section from information about how to become an affirming church which focused on the idea of justice for all. A brief discussion included information that has been shared by a family with a disabled child and their experience with people treating them differently. An upcoming Bible Study at Siloam will be focusing on affirming issues and what a congregation can do to implement a more inclusive atmosphere.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that the minutes of October 19, 2021 be approved as printed. CARRIED

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that the minutes of October 21, 2021 be approved after a friendly amendment was agreed upon by Pauline Newton and Allyn Todd regarding their motion made at that meeting. CARRIED

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

Motion: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Betty Ross that the agenda, with added amendments, be approved. CARRIED

Correspondence:

A letter has been received from the United Church of Canada acknowledging Siloam's financial gifts in 2020 to support the work of the church through Mission & Service.

Continuing Business:

Financial Update

Dick Huffman reported on the statements he distributed with regard to an October update and a profit and loss budget performance statement. Dick also asked for any thoughts from people about fundraising activities for 2022 and reiterated that Siloam needs a chair for the Congregational Resources Committee. An Envelope Secretary Team made up of Lorna Carnegie, Janet Meyerink and Rosemary Todd has been formed and will begin its work in January.

Budget Preparations for 2022

ACTION: In preparation for budget planning, all committee chairs are to submit requests now to Dick regarding estimated financial needs for their committees for 2022. Dick pointed out that Siloam does need to pay back, by the end of 2022, a \$40 000 loan received through government grants during the pandemic. Chair Glover emphasized her desire for Siloam to continue its commitment to M&S and suggested we organize a dedicated fundraiser to this cause perhaps at Easter or Thanksgiving.

Property Issues

The Property Committee is not ready to commit to allowing other churches to use our facility at this time. Dave and Catherine will speak to the groups asking and see if their goals/mission statements align with ours. They will also speak to other churches (e.g. Dundas Centre, Rowntree) who are sharing facilities to obtain information about those arrangements. Dave will speak with representatives of Greening Sacred Spaces to set up a rental agreement with them for December 21.

ACTION: Dave will meet with Wendy Sibley to discuss rental information; the committee will look into the possibility of adding a second railing leading from the sanctuary to the pulpit; the walkway from the parking lot to the front door will be levelled to prevent falls; a rental policy will be developed.

New Business:

Garden Update and Memorandum of Agreement

Randy Donkervoort joined the meeting to speak to the report "Siloam/Urban Roots Garden Review and Plans for 2022" previously circulated to council members. Council has agreed by consensus to allow one fundraiser, held perhaps in late June or July, to be dedicated for support of the garden project in 2022. Randy emphasized that the intent of the garden project is a long-term outreach program

between Siloam and Urban Roots. The prepared Memorandum of Agreement which was discussed is designed to ensure there will always be open communication between the two parties involved thus helping to avoid any potential misunderstandings or problems. It is hoped that in 2022 the garden project will

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receive some federal/provincial grants to help with financing this work. If successful, six students could be hired and paid a living wage. **Motion:** Moved by Betty Ross and seconded by Margaret Smith that Council approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Urban Roots and Siloam with section 2.2.3(d) changed to read: *actively pursue grants and fundraising activities to support the Garden and not use money from Siloam's Operational Budget.*

CARRIED

Purchase of New Piano

Allyn Todd relayed information that Greg Bruzas has generously given \$15 000 to Siloam towards a new grand piano for the sanctuary. Mr. Bruzas has indicated that he will add another \$10 000 toward the cost in 2022. With the possible sale of our existing piano, it was felt we would have enough money to buy a very good used piano. With Council's thanks, Allyn has agreed to lead a committee to pursue this initiative and will approach Helen Bruzas, Blythe George and Peggy Dunham to ask if they would serve as members. **ACTION:** Allyn will report on his findings at the December Council meeting.

Posting of Organist Position

Council decided that we could post, on our website, general information about the availability of an organist position at Rowntree United with a link to Rowntree.

Rev. Sheila's Sabbatical Leave

Rev. Sheila will be on a sabbatical leave from May 1 to July 31, 2022 and will take her holidays in August of 2022. Rev. Ann has indicated she is interested in covering some of the services during this time. Spiritual Life and Worship has been asked to organize pulpit supply for all Sundays during Rev. Sheila's leave.

Future of Coffee House

Until the end of December, 2021, Siloam pays Jen Prince for four hours per month to operate Coffee House. It was agreed that this is a very important outreach program for Siloam to be involved with and one which Siloam would like to continue to support. LUSO is in charge of the program and it was felt that as a current

supporter of LUSO we could try to increase our donations to LUSO with the intention of those increased donations going to support the Coffee House program. Catherine pointed out that we have money left from a grant for innovative ideas for youth ministry that could be forwarded to LUSO. John Davidson will speak with Noralie Jackett about ideas for LUSO that would fit the criteria for which we are allowed to use the grant money. Catherine is looking into a possible grant for Siloam from the City of London, also a supporter of LUSO, which might be able to

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be used to forward to LUSO. Because no one wants to see the Coffee House program fail, it was also suggested that Jen's contract for the four hours/month could be extended on a month-to-month basis until a youth minister is hired through the Shared Youth Ministry group.

Change of Location for Switching Station

Allyn Todd explained the necessity of a switching station being located in a quiet area and the need for the Arva Atrium to be available for extra seating, if needed, and for a reception area. It has been decided that the switching station will now be situated in the office along the wall with the hanging stained glass panels.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Margaret Smith indicated that a sign-up sheet for greeters will be available starting in January. Council members were encouraged to sign up. Margaret reported that Wendy Sibley will recruit weekly scripture readers, also starting in January.

Rev. Sheila encouraged anyone with information for an Advent FANFARE to submit it to the office by Friday, November 19.

Pauline Newton reported that Wendy Sibley has agreed to include aspects associated with Easy Worship as part of her job description.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Sheila closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Council will meet next on December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary