

## **Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting**

**April 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

### **Present:**

Rev. Ann Corbet, 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), Harla O'Neill (Congregational Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Anne Wheatley (bookkeeper), Peggy Rivard (Secretary)

### **Regrets:**

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Betty Ross (Rose Birrell)

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer:**

Chair Glover welcomed Anne Wheatley who will be joining Council meetings for the first few minutes each month to present a financial update. We were also very pleased to welcome Rev. Ann who will be our clergy representative while Rev. Sheila is on sabbatical.

Rev. Ann opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Finance Discussion:**

A profit and loss statement was circulated prior to the meeting and Anne Wheatley answered questions from those present. It was suggested that henceforth the P & L statement would include actual figures from the comparable months and year-to-date figures from the previous year. Council learned that the Irish Stew fundraiser was a success with a profit of \$1 072.72. ACTION > Catherine will prepare an announcement for the congregation. It was also noted that the Lenten Project raised \$9 500 for the work of Mission and Services.

### **Correspondence:**

On behalf of Council, Dave Dunham and Chair Glover will send a letter of thanks to Chad Brown, along with a token of our appreciation, for the work he has done as interim caretaker.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that the minutes of February 16, 2022 be approved as printed. CARRIED

### **Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Margaret Smith that the agenda with an amendment be approved. CARRIED

**Reflection on Affirming Ministry:**

Chair Glover referred to the December 2021 edition of *Broadview* to discuss the article telling the stories of younger, disabled people who sometimes find themselves forced to enter a long term care facility or retirement home in order to access the care they need. This, obviously, is not a good solution as the people have no one around them their age and little in common with the older residents. The article pointed out how very isolated these people feel in normal times, let alone during the pandemic. A different type of facility catering to the needs of people in this situation is needed. Catherine told us about the creation of the United Property Resource Corporation in 2020 by the United Church of Canada. The UPRC looks at community infrastructure in an inclusive way to unlock value for social purposes including building lasting affordable housing. ACTION > Catherine will reach out to the UPRC with the hope that a ZOOM presentation might be available for Council at some time.

**Continuing Business:****Grant Opportunities**

Prior to the meeting, Catherine issued a summary sheet outlining the grant applications that have been received, the ones pending, and ones that are planned. As she pointed out, most grants offering more than \$25 000 require the recipient to be incorporated. Dave Dunham and Allyn Todd have explored this topic and found that an individual church congregation cannot be incorporated. The solution is to partner with an organization which is incorporated. After a great deal of background fact checking by Sharon Ashton, Chair Glover proposed the idea of partnering with ELUCO (an incorporated organization) to allow us to apply for a City of London Community Grant. **Motion:** Moved by Harla O'Neill and seconded by Dick Huffman that Siloam United Church, as a longstanding partner with ELUCO, join together to submit a Grant Application to the London Community Grant Program for the purpose of funding a Communication Specialist to support the Mission of both organizations. This grant will be up to \$82 000.00 to support both the salary costs of the Specialist and also other Video and Audio Specialists. CARRIED

**Information from Rev. Ann Corbet**

While Rev. Sheila is on sabbatical and then holidays, Rev. Ann will be assuming clergy responsibilities. Rev. Ann explained that she has a 25 hours/week schedule with Siloam; she is not on Facebook; messages on e-mail (use her g-mail address) will be checked between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.; urgent messages should be relayed to her via phone; please don't text her unless it is an emergency; there is no problem for Rev. Ann if you have a guest speaker in mind during the summer on a Sunday when she is in charge.

**New Business:****Contracts for Office Administrator and Custodial Staff**

Pauline Newton explained that extra responsibilities (ADP, Easy Worship) were added to the office administrator's role. This necessitated adding two more hours/week to the position. Pauline also noted that the Grahams dissolved their former company which means that Dave will be coming on staff as an employee to be paid by ADP. Because he works 24 hours/week, he is eligible for United Church benefits. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Harla O'Neill that Council accept the Employment Agreement for Erin Salter (office administrator) as distributed increasing the hours from 28 to 30 hours per week. CARRIED

**Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council accept the Employment Agreement for Dave Graham (custodian) as distributed. CARRIED

Pauline noted that the responsibilities for the Office Administrator will take 30 hours per week. We cannot add more items to this workload. Extra jobs will have to be done by volunteers within the congregation. In addition, Pauline reminded everyone that we need to respect our lay personnel and refrain from phoning, texting, e-mailing them outside of their working hours.

**Spiritual Life and Worship – Pulpit Supply, Greeters**

Margaret Smith acknowledged everyone's joy of having the choir present again at services and the performance on Easter Sunday by the Bell Choir. During Rev. Sheila's sabbatical and holiday period, Rev. Ann will conduct most services except during her holiday time. Margaret has Rev. Camillia LaRouche in place for May 29 and feels she will be able to find speakers for July 24, July 31 and August 7 this week. The speaker for the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service will be Pastor Joshua Lawrence from First-St. Andrews.

Beginning April 24, the offering plate will be brought forward during the service for a blessing. This will be done by the greeter on duty that day. Margaret encouraged everyone to sign up to be a greeter—one person is enough for each Sunday while we remain in a covid time.

Other points mentioned by Margaret: there is one child to be baptized on May 1; S L & W will be looking after all things related to the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary service; thought will be given to supervision in the nursery if more young children start attending frequently; a date for a concert given by Shane Cook at the church has been narrowed down to September 23 or November 19; the Rose Birrell unit has donated \$2 000 to Siloam's general fund as well as \$500 to the spring lenten project.

Yard Sale Update

It is felt that our "usual" yard sale setup cannot happen during covid. The idea of a spring clothing drive whereby we collect clothes at the church, pack them and then sell them to Value Village was discussed. ACTION > John Davidson will contact Value Village to see if they will accept/pay for clothing.

165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Update

Chair Glover read the names of those who have volunteered to serve on the Anniversary Committee. It is hoped that there will be a meeting of these people in May. The plans are for a catered dinner to be served in Tolpuddle Hall followed by an evening of entertainment in the sanctuary. The date is October 15. ACTION > Catherine will contact Lynda Arthur, caterer, to reserve this date.

Acknowledgement and Best Wishes to Rev. Sheila

Catherine expressed best wishes to Rev. Sheila on Council's behalf for a restorative and restful time as she begins her sabbatical.

**Closing Prayer:**

Rev. Ann offered a prayer to close the meeting.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**                      **Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

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Catherine Glover, Chair

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Peggy Rivard, Secretary