

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

May 17, 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), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer and Congregational Resources), Pauline Newton (M&P), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Anne Wheatley (bookkeeper), Marilyn Arthur (Minister of Youth and Young Adults), Peggy Rivard (Secretary and Congregational Life)

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Ann opened the meeting with prayer.

Welcome:

Chair Glover welcomed Marilyn Arthur, via ZOOM, to the meeting. Marilyn stated that she is very much looking forward to the shared ministry with Siloam, First-St. Andrews and Metropolitan. She will be meeting with people from these three churches and gathering ideas from everyone about projects she is excited to start.

Finance Discussion:

Anne Wheatley joined via ZOOM and answered questions about the circulated April, 2022 P & L statement. She was able to clarify questions posed about some budget lines and will rename GL 34320 to *Fitness Activities* to include deposits from the people attending pickleball, Walk Fit and the Exercise Group.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Pauline Newton that the minutes of April 19, 2022 be approved as printed. CARRIED

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that the agenda be approved as printed. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

Grant Opportunities

As stated before, many grant applications require the recipient to be an incorporated entity which Siloam is not. Fortunately, we can “partner” with Urban Roots and ELUCO, both incorporated organizations, in order to apply for grants.

Chair Glover announced two more grants she is applying for on behalf of Siloam. *Faithful Footprints* is a partnership of Faith and the Common Good and the United Church of Canada. This grant is limited to a maximum of \$30 000 which must be used for projects that will reduce our carbon footprint (e.g. more efficient furnace,

caulking of windows, etc). We do not need to be partnered with an incorporated organization for this grant.

The *Ontario Grant to Support Anti-Hate Security Measures for Faith-Based and Cultural Organizations* has a maximum \$5 000 amount. Catherine and Dave Dunham will be discussing projects at Siloam that would fit the criteria for this grant.

New Business:

Spiritual Life & Worship

Margaret Smith reported that Pastor Joshua Lawrence will be the Anniversary Speaker on October 16. She also reported that all spots for pulpit supply during the summer have been filled.

A concert featuring Shane Cook will be held on November 19. There is a need for volunteers to form a committee to organize this activity.

Council members were strongly urged to volunteer to greet on Sunday mornings. Also, Erin Salter is looking after securing scripture readers and needs more people to add to her volunteer list.

Request for MAID

Rev. Ann has been asked if Siloam would host a celebration of life for a person who has chosen MAID. The request included having the final procedure causing death to be held in the building. At this point in time, Council felt that we are unsure of (1) any policy of the United Church of Canada regarding this, (2) the legal requirements and (3) the feelings of the Siloam congregation. The Healing and Wellness Committee has planned to discuss end-of-life decisions at its November meeting and, most likely, will hold further discussions dealing specifically with MAID. Council was in favour of holding the Celebration of Life service for the person asking, but was not in a position to grant permission to hold the final procedure on site. This is a topic which will be discussed after getting feedback from the congregation.

Young At Heart Church School

Pauline Newton noted that the program led by Allison O'Connor has been working very well. Pauline felt that we could suspend the program for the summer months and start it again in September. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Allyn Todd that the Young At Heart church school program continue to the end of December, 2022 with a suspension for the months of July and August and a start on Rally Sunday. CARRIED ACTION> Pauline and Catherine will speak with Marilyn Arthur to see if she could be in attendance on our Rally Sunday.

Pauline also made a request that the Nursery be made a little more inviting for young families who use it on Sunday mornings. Dave Dunham will clear out some of the tables/chairs as well as speak to the custodian about the storage of cleaning machinery.

Storage space has always been an issue at the church and we need to think about classroom space that could become available since we want to expand our Sunday School attendance. Although not urgent at this point, we need to think ahead. We will encourage Marilyn Arthur and Allison O'Connor to work together and discuss their needs for space.

Staff/Committee Comments

Communications

Allyn Todd explained that the reason words are not always on the screen for congregants is because we don't have enough volunteers operating all the audio/visual equipment. We really need a volunteer to look after the Easy Worship technical part which would ensure that all verses of hymns are shown on the screen at the correct time. Until that time, Rev. Ann will now announce the hymn number and the corresponding hymn book.

A mention was made of the possibility of distributing a very abbreviated order of service each week. Rev. Ann volunteered to speak with Allison and ask if Allison could forward by a Thursday morning, to Erin, any material that she has planned which would need to be shown on the screen to enable congregants' participation.

Congregational Life

Council members gave Peggy the okay to research information needed to organize the production of a new church directory.

Property

Motion: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that the Property Committee secure \$4 000 from the Trustees in order to replace and pay for a new fire alarm panel. CARRIED

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Ann offered a prayer to close the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

