

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

October 18, 2022 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), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer and Congregational Resources), Pauline Newton (M&P), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Peggy Rivard (Secretary and Congregational Life)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Catherine welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rev. Sheila opened with prayer.

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

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

Deferment:

A Congregational Resources report and budget development for 2023 were deferred until the November Council meeting.

New Business:

Development of Siloam Property for Social Housing – UPRC Update

Jim Anderson and John Bell, members of the Congregational Resources Committee, joined the meeting at this time via ZOOM. Catherine, Jim and John gave details of information they had after a meeting with Rev. Lauren Hodgson, a director of Church and Community Partnership, Kindred Works. The **United Property Resource Corporation** and Kindred Works are two individual organizations united by one vision. UPRC was founded by the United Church of Canada to bring professional real estate expertise to communities of faith so that decisions can be made about that faith community's real estate. Kindred Works acts as the UPRC's development and asset manager.

Jim pointed out that a feasibility study (at a cost of \$50 000) could be done by Kindred Works to determine what possibilities there might be for Siloam to build a housing structure in line with our mission of promoting social housing for groups such as seniors or those needing lower rental costs. If we wanted to work with Kindred Works, we would have to go through re-zoning, etc. which could take one to one and a half years.

It was noted that another option would be to sell approximately one to one and a half acres of land we have at an approximate value today of \$1 M or \$1.5 M. Jim suggested that if we chose this option, we may wish to contact, asap, one of the adjacent land owners to our property to see if they would be interested in "joining" in a sale in order to provide traffic access to Fanshawe Park Road without having to go through the church's entrance. If we were to contemplate a sale of property, we would need to receive permission from the United Church of Canada who are the owners of the land.

Both options would have positive aspects for Siloam's mission of the church as income from a sale of property could be used for increased programming and activities for our community and for outlying areas. One negative aspect of either plan would be the loss of our existing garden.

Congregational Resources members are willing to talk to some other churches that have undertaken one or both of these options. We are aware of plans that White Oaks United here in London are proceeding with. It was decided that everyone will think about these suggestions over the next month before we make a decision as to whether we wish the full Council to hear a presentation by Kindred Works.

Chair Glover expressed her thanks on behalf of Council for the information John and Jim provided. The two gentlemen then left the meeting.

Garden Ministry

Randy Donkervoort and Jeremy Horrell then joined the meeting via ZOOM. They discussed information that had previously been circulated to Council members concerning an opportunity for Siloam and Urban Roots to partner up to support the Oneida Soup Kitchen project. The kitchen needs to be winterized so that the owner/operator can continue providing meals to those on the Oneida reserve and to other places needing food. Businesses such as Home Depot will give gift certificates to Siloam, a charitable organization, which will then give the certificates for building materials to the soup kitchen. **Motion:** Moved by Randy Donkervoort and seconded by Pauline Newton that Siloam Council allow Randy the use of the Siloam Charitable Registration Number to approach local building supply companies who will donate gift cards to Randy who will pass them on to the Oneida Soup Kitchen to purchase building supplies for needed renovations. Abstention – 1 CARRIED At this point, Randy and Jeremy left the ZOOM meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that the minutes of September 27, 2022 be approved as printed. CARRIED

New Business Continued:

Communication and Outreach Specialist

Discussion concerning the possibility of creating a part-time job for a position of Communication and Outreach Specialist took place. Money (approximately \$25 000) to cover the expense of this position would come from the Trustees. It was pointed out that Urban Roots is in a similar position wanting to create a part-time person to act in the same capacity. Chair Glover mentioned it would be worthwhile examining if we could work together in order to get one person to fill the two part-time positions. The communications team will try to get a job description together to present at the next meeting. Notice of motion: the Communications Committee members will present a motion to this topic at the November Council meeting.

Stewardship Campaign

All videos concerning the stewardship campaign have been made. One has already been previewed during the church service of October 16.

Letters will be sent out to those people who do not have an e-mail. A PAR form will also be enclosed.

The offertory plate will be circulated throughout the congregation during services starting on October 23. The Envelope Secretaries will report if this has a positive effect on givings.

Ministry and Personnel

Pauline Newton indicated that First-St. Andrews, Metropolitan and Siloam all have to agree that Marilyn Arthur be extended a sacrament licence. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Allyn Todd that Siloam extend a sacrament licence to Marilyn Arthur to allow her to perform the sacraments. CARRIED

Continuing Business:

Grant Opportunities

Dave Dunham has spoken with a representative of Faith and the Common Good Organization regarding a Faithful Footprints Grant and Energy Audit. A grant of up to \$20 000 is available, if we are capable of topping it up with another \$10 000. Dave outlined several projects that this grant could be applied to: fans in the sanctuary to improve air circulation; motion sensors in the washrooms to reduce the time the fan is running; a more energy-efficient refrigerator and freezer for the kitchen; outside doors in the kitchen and storage room. The grant timeline runs through to 2029.

Siloam is required to do the "legwork" to get an energy audit done as well as securing quotes for the projects we want to upgrade. The extra \$10 000 needed to get the full \$20 000 grant would come from the Trustees. Dave and his property committee members will proceed to get some estimates. Margaret Smith will pass this information on to Rose Birrell members. We will re-address this topic further next January.

New Horizon Grant

Chair Glover has written an application for a New Horizons Grant in the amount of \$25 000.00. This grant is specific to helping seniors. Catherine did mention that the grant was written with the intention of having a Communications and Outreach Specialist as part of Siloam's staff. That person would be responsible for getting our information/programmes out to seniors in rural and outlying areas.

Staff Committee Reports:

Margaret Smith indicated that money that was donated in Kay Granger's memory is being used to purchase a stained glass art piece to be hung in the library chapel overlooking the Rose Birrell garden.

Margaret also asked that all Council members start spreading the word about the upcoming bazaar on November 5. Also, please remember to support the Shane Cook concert on November 19 as it is a fundraiser. Flyers for this event will be available for distribution on Sunday, October 23.

Congregational Life Committee has been directed to suspend coffee service after church until the end of November. Refreshments after the November 19th concert may, or may not, be served depending on the covid situation as we near the date.

Peggy Rivard will get in touch with all Council members to try and determine a day/time when everyone could be available for an in-person meeting. As we start into budget discussions, we feel this would be a better option than relying on ZOOM for participation.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Sheila closed the meeting with a blessing.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

