

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

November 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting held at Siloam United Church

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Catherine Glover (Chair), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), Pauline Newton (M & P), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees and Communications), Peggy Rivard (Secretary), Lynn McClary (Affirming Committee)

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Sheila began our meeting with prayer.

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

There were no amendments to the agenda. **Motion:** Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Steven Britton that the agenda be approved as printed. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Margaret Smith that the minutes of the September 27, 2022 Council meeting be approved as printed. CARRIED

New Business:

Becoming an Affirming Congregation

Lynn McClary outlined progress being made by the Affirming Committee. A new Vision Statement for Siloam was presented to Council for approval. **Motion:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council accept the following to be Siloam's Vision Statement: *At Siloam United Church, everyone is a child of God and all God's children belong. As followers of Jesus and his message of love, inclusion and justice, we celebrate the qualities, characteristics and gifts of every human being including their age, race, ethnicity, gender identification, sexual orientation, abilities, marital status, family configuration and life experience regardless of socioeconomic condition. We seek to be a safe and nurturing space for everyone to worship, learn and grow together as we strive to live out our mission to be Christ to each other and God's world. Our baptism, communion, membership and marriage rites are open to all who seek to walk in the way of Christ. Because we honour our diversity and recognize our interconnectedness with each other and all of God's creation, we commit to liberation, inclusion, dignity, equality, justice and access for all within our church family and beyond, and with concern and compassion for all the earth.* CARRIED

Opportunity to offer satellite location for London Food Bank

John Davidson proposed that Siloam be made a satellite location in connection with the London Food Bank and LUSO. This would be in response to the fact that several clients in our part of the city are finding it very difficult to get to the main food bank on Leathorne Street. On the first Wednesday of each month, a truck from the main food bank would come to Siloam's parking lot along with staff to administer the clerical work necessary. Two staff members would simply need a table in the narthex for their own computers. This idea fits perfectly into our vision of being a community hub. **Motion:** Moved by John Davidson, seconded by Dave Dunham that we partner with LUSO/London Food Bank and allow Siloam to be a satellite location for food distribution. CARRIED

Budget 2023: First Draft

It was noted that we have priorities to keep in mind for 2023: we need to repay a portion of the CEBA loan and we have to provide a 3.4% cost of living increase to staff. Unfortunately, the budget cannot allow for any merit pay for employees although their work is exceptional. Costs for continuing education will increase as well as approved mileage payouts.

Catherine was able to go through the first draft of the budget on screen and discussion followed. Changes that were made during the discussion will be shown in a revised draft budget which Catherine will send out shortly.

Continuing Business:

Grants

New Horizon's Grant: Submitted

Kindred Credit Union Grant: Submitted

Mission and Service Grant for Garden Ministry: successful--\$1 000.00 to support living wage payment for horticultural workers, 2023

Seeds of Hope Grant for Youth and Young Adult Ministry: \$8 000

Ontario Trillium Fund Opportunity

Dick and Anne Wheatley will clear up and clarify information concerning grant money that has been received.

Property Development

Deferred until January after the next Congregational Resources meeting.

Communication Specialist

Deferred until December meeting

Staff/Committee Reports:

Allyn Todd discussed the possibility of rebinding copies of More Voices United. Steven Britton pointed out that there is a new edition of the hymn book coming out in the next year or so.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary