

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

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

In-person meeting at Siloam

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Catherine Glover (Chair), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), John Davidson (Outreach & Social Justice), 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)

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Sheila opened with prayer.

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

Motion: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Steven Britton that the printed agenda with a few amendments/additions be approved. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dick Huffman that the minutes of November 16, 2022 be approved as printed. CARRIED

Affirming Congregation:

Chair Glover welcomed Randy Donkervoort to speak to an item regarding the process of becoming an affirming congregation. **Motion:** Moved by Randy Donkervoort and seconded by Allyn Todd that Siloam's marriage policy be stated as such: *At Siloam United Church, we see each person as a unique, loved creation of God, entitled to the full life of Christian community, including marriage. We celebrate the marriage of all couples in a committed and loving relationship, who seek a Christian marriage, and are legally eligible to be married—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identification, race, creed, background or socio-economic status.* CARRIED This motion will be taken to the congregation at the Annual General Meeting.

Randy also pointed out that a few changes in wording to our Vision Statement were suggested to the Affirming Committee. A friendly amendment to the motion made at Church Council's November 16th meeting by Lynn McClary and seconded by Dave Dunham was made. Randy, as a member of the Affirming Committee and with the support of Dave Dunham, presented the following as Siloam's Visioning 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 affirm and celebrate the qualities, characteristics, and gifts of every human being including their age, race, ethnicity, gender identification, sexual orientation, abilities, marital status, family configuration, socioeconomic condition, and life experience. 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, equity, justice, and access for all within our church family and beyond, and with concern and compassion for all the earth. CARRIED This motion will be presented to the congregation at the AGM.

Lynn McClary will make the previous two motions and also a motion that Siloam become an affirming congregation at February's Annual General Meeting.

New Business:

Approval of M&P Salary Recommendations for 2023

Pauline Newton went over changes made to salaries for 2023. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by John Davidson that Council accept the revised salary recommendations for 2023 as recommended by M & P. CARRIED (abstaining—Rev. Sheila)

Pauline and Erin will contact the United Church and ADP to confirm the proper procedure for allotting salary to Dave and Claire Graham during Dave's recovery time.

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by John Davidson that church office hours for Erin beginning January 1, 2023 be as follows: Monday – Thursday: 8:30 – 4:00; Friday: 8:30 – 12:30. CARRIED

Budget 2023

Chair Catherine went over changes to the proposed 2023 budget which will show a deficit budget. Catherine will distribute the revised figures at a later date. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Steven Britton that Council take this revised budget to the congregation for presentation at the AGM. CARRIED

Information Item

Catherine asked Council members to look over the draft AGM agenda for February 5. She also reminded all Council chairs to submit their annual reports to Erin by January 13. **Please include your committee membership at the same time.

Continuing Business:

Grants

Catherine will submit an application for a Canada Summer Jobs grant. She reported that we have received \$5 000 in grant money from the Kindred Credit Union to help with garden expenses.

Communication Specialist

Allyn Todd is hoping to have a job description for this position ready for the January Council meeting.

Vacancies on Council and Committees

It is extremely difficult to recruit volunteers to take positions of responsibility.

Barbara Walters has agreed to become the Rose Birrell representative and Catherine Glover will chair the Congregational Resources Committee as well as act as Past Council Chair.

Offering

There has been no significant difference noted in givings by passing the offering plate during the service. However, as we are expecting visitors during the Advent season, we will continue to pass the plate at each service until the new year.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Allyn Todd explained the different payment options for the church's insurance policy. It was decided to pay the full amount on the due date to avoid interest payments.

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by John Davidson that Rock and Deepak switch job positions within the Communications Team. CARRIED

Because of the influx of flu cases, it was felt that we will not offer coffee after church for a period of time.

Chair Glover noted that she will be absent for the January meeting requiring someone on Council to chair the meeting. Because we have no incoming Chair, each Council member will be required to chair a monthly meeting during 2023.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Catherine Glover, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary