

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

January 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

In-person meeting at Siloam

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Steve Britton (Acting Chair), 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), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell), Peggy Rivard (Secretary and Congregational Life)

Regrets:

Catherine Glover (Chair)

Welcome:

Steve Britton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Opening Prayer:

Rev. Sheila opened the meeting with prayer.

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that the printed agenda and extra items brought forth be approved. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dick Huffman that the December meeting minutes be approved after changing the word “change” to “switch” on page three and a correction in spelling for Rock’s name. CARRIED

New Business:

Tolpuddle Martyrs Cemetery Project in Canada

Allyn Todd received information from a group of three individuals indicating they would like to raise money to repair the grave sites of five Tolpuddle martyrs buried in Ontario—two at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery (London), two at Siloam and one at St. Marys (see attached document). Siloam Trustees would act as the named beneficiary and “clearing house” for a GoFundMe campaign that the group would set up. **Motion:** Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that the Trustees become engaged with the Topuddle Martyrs Cemetery Project in Canada in the role of assisting with the handling of monies received from the GoFundMe appeal. CARRIED

Fund Raising Schedule

Margaret Smith pointed out that Siloam needs to establish a schedule indicating what fundraisers will be held at the church and when. The following schedule was established:

Lent Campaign—February through April
Pancake Supper—February 21 (tentative)
Ham/Scalloped Potato Dinner—April 22
Spring Yard Sale—May 6
Chicken BBQ—June 3
Fall Yard Sale—September 9
Anniversary Week—October
Santa Shoppe Bazaar—November 4
Stewardship Campaign—November, December
Turkey Drive—December
White Gift Sunday—December 3 or 10
Cantata—December (date TBA)

Continuing Business:

2023 Budget

Dick Huffman reported that he found changes that needed to be made in areas such as FundScript, a janitorial position financial issue, janitorial supplies, WSIB premiums, Affirm Ministry expenses, etc. His view now is that the 2023 budget will show a deficit of \$14 395. It was felt that a budgetary comment must be made at the AGM to address the fact that we do have to also pay back, this year, \$40 000 of a CEBA loan so that an additional part of that loan (\$20 000) can be forgiven.

Motion: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dick Huffman that the latest version of the budget and the inclusion of the aforesaid budgetary comment be presented at the AGM. CARRIED

Communication Specialist

A few changes in wording in the original outline of the Job Description for a Communication Specialist were noted. Discussion was held regarding the pros/cons of hiring someone to fill this position.

Motion: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that Siloam request approval from Antler River Watershed Regional Council for Siloam to access Trustee managed funds up to \$20 000 for a Communications Specialist Pilot Project under the following conditions: (1) Siloam will establish a Pilot Project specifically to contract a qualified Communications Specialist for 13 hrs/wk for a period of not longer than one year from the date of hiring; (2) responsibilities of the Communications Specialist will be as described in the Job Description approved by Council on January 18, 2023 (see attached); (3) salary range offered will be in the \$20-\$30/hr range depending on qualifications; (4) criteria will be established by Council to enable determining the viability of continuing or expanding the position

into a larger number of hours per week on or before the conclusion of the Pilot Project. Two Opposed; CARRIED

ACTION > Chair Glover is asked to submit a request to Lynne Allin of the ARWRC before a February 1 meeting of the region's Congregational Support Committee to see if Siloam can access money from the Trustees to support the hiring of a Communications Specialist.

Filling Vacancies on Committees and Council

Presently there are openings for Chair of Council, Chair of Communications and Chair Elect. We realize that with the makeup of our congregation most people have served their former churches for many, many years and now would like to step back from committees and leadership roles. We realize that it is better to ask two or even three people to assume leadership roles in an area rather than assume that one person would take full responsibility. We also know that people are much more willing to participate in one-off events rather than be expected to help several times. At the AGM, it was suggested that Chair Glover outline the vacancies and volunteer opportunities available and make an appeal to those present to help out.

Staff/Committee Reports:

It was felt that we continue to pass the collection plate during the service as it seems there are more envelopes each Sunday on the plate. Members of M & P will look after organizing helpers for the collection in January and February. Other committees should take a turn as well.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Sheila closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Steven Britton, Acting Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

