

## **Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting**

**May 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Siloam Library Chapel**

### **Present:**

Marilyn Arthur, Steven Britton (Chair), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Randy Donkervoort, Dave Dunham (Property), Catherine Glover (Congregational Resources), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), Lynn McClary (HEAT), Pauline Newton (M & P), Peggy Rivard (Congregational Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Communications), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

### **Regrets:**

Rev. Ann Corbet

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer:**

Chair Britton welcomed all to the meeting and asked Marilyn Arthur to open the meeting with prayer.

### **Agenda Amendments/Approval:**

**Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Pauline Newton that the agenda, with amendments, be approved. CARRIED

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that the minutes of April 12 be approved as printed. CARRIED

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Dick Huffman indicated that a further report will be sent to Council members once clarification is made on an item. **Motion:** Moved by Dick Huffman and seconded by Catherine Glover that Rob Elliott be removed from the list of signatories for Siloam's operating account. CARRIED

### **Spring Topics and Other Business:**

#### **Trustees and Communication Updates**

(1) Allyn Todd highlighted the Siloam Piano Search Team Final Report. It was agreed by Council that the choir will establish some rules about the care of the new grand piano and who should be permitted access. The choir asks Council to provide them with a list of who currently uses the sanctuary piano and any future additions to the list should be vetted through the choir. The choir will take responsibility for providing the key to the piano to whoever is approved to use it. **Motion:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Margaret Smith that the \$3 000 received from the sale of our former grand piano be used in the following manner: \$1 000 to be

used for the purchase of the piano cover; \$500 to be used for the refurbishment of the choir room piano; \$1 500 to be used for future tuning of both the new grand piano and the choir room piano. CARRIED

(2) **Motion:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that a new laptop be purchased for the Envelope Secretaries to use. The old computer is too slow and not sufficiently capable of providing the processing needs of the latest version of Church Watch. This has been verified by Mike Ashton and Allyn Todd. It is herein requested that the funds of up to \$650 for the laptop be provided from the Trustees Non-Designated Fund. CARRIED

(3) Allyn Todd reported that there is up to \$25 000 available from the Trustees to support the Communication Specialist position, as well as a \$6 700 portion of a grant that Siloam has received. It was noted and agreed upon that we need to include in the job description that the candidate needs to have the ability to write grants. This would allow the position to be sustained year over year.

Allyn reported that the Communications Team has provided an edited copy of Dorothy Foster's funeral service for her family.

Inquiries are still being made to find a solution to block out excessive light from the skylights in the sanctuary.

Allyn also reported that over \$2 000 has been raised so far this year from use of Tolpuddle Hall for pickleball sessions.

#### Community Garden Updates

Randy Donkervoort expressed his appreciation to the video production team for their expertise in producing a new video showcasing the Siloam/Urban Roots garden. Randy also acknowledged great appreciation to Bruce McGauley for the creation of a metal sign/gate at the entrance of the garden. Support from the staff of Urban Roots and the members of the Siloam community has been wonderful to date. The garden will be bigger this year and will be the only garden within the Urban Roots community producing seasonal fruit. Students working in the garden this year will only be there for eight weeks but others hired through Urban Roots will be helping once the students are finished.

#### Grants Updates

Catherine pointed out that we have received \$9 000 in grant money that can be used for the installation of a more suitable pathway within the Catherine Newton memorial garden. A concrete path would be the best option but would cost considerably more money. The Property Committee will look further into this matter but if a pathway is not created by March 24, 2024 the grant money

must be returned. An application for a grant from the Gay Lea Foundation was denied.

#### Spring Yard Sale

Although the sale was a financial success, Lynn McClary reported that there was no help given at the Salvation Army store upon delivery of our leftover items. Lynn also mentioned that we may wish to consider another charity to use after further sales knowing that the Salvation Army organization is not supportive of some of the doctrines of Affirming Churches.

#### Fall Yard Sale

We will plan for a second sale this year to be held on Saturday, September 16.

#### Chicken BBQ

Margaret Smith brought everyone's attention to the fact that there is an urgent need for volunteers to help at this event on June 3.

#### HEAT Affirming Ministry Celebration

Lynn McClary went over arrangements that have been made for Sunday, June 4. As it is Pride Sunday, we will have cake and juice served in the Arva Atrium after the service. Decals indicating that we will be an Affirming Church will be placed on the doors of the church.

#### Summer Office Hours

**Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that the Siloam Church Office hours return to the pre-pandemic summer hours of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30 – 4:00, for the months of July and August.  
CARRIED, 1 Opposed

#### Preview of Remit 1

Steven Britton indicated that Remit 1 addresses the removal of all rules that the United Church of Canada has for its structure in order that Indigenous people can create their own. This remit has to be voted on and submitted by March 31 of 2024. The Basis of Union will have to be amended. Steven agreed to send out more information concerning the Remit to Council members via e-mail before a Council vote is taken hopefully this fall.

#### UCC Video Licence

Steven received an email from the United Church of Canada outlining what is needed in order to obtain a UCC video licence. While many Council members are sure Siloam already maintains a licence that is up to date, Catherine will check with Allyn Todd and/or Erin Salter to be certain.

Congratulatory Letter

Catherine Glover offered to write a letter on behalf of Siloam Council and members of the congregation offering congratulations to Rev. Jennifer Prince as she was recently commissioned as a diaconal minister.

**Search for a New Minister:**

**Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that Council move in camera. CARRIED

Discussion was held concerning steps being taken regarding arrangements for an interim minister and the search for a new minister. Council will have input regarding the composition of the Search Team.

**Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Pauline Newton to come out of in camera discussion. CARRIED

Appreciation for Rev. Sheila and Family

**Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Pauline Newton that Council set aside the monetary amount agreed upon as a gift to be presented to Rev. Sheila upon her retirement from Ministry and Siloam. CARRIED

**Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council direct the Trustees to administer the Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor Adult Education Study fund. CARRIED

Margaret Smith reported on the proposed ideas that have been discussed regarding the organization of Rev. Sheila's retirement gathering on June 25.

**Closing Prayer:**

Marilyn Arthur closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Siloam**

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Steven Britton, Chair

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Peggy Rivard, Secretary