

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

June 21, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Siloam Library Chapel

Present:

Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor, Steven Britton (Chair), Wendy Barbour (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/Secretary), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Communications, Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Chair Britton welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Rev. Sheila to lead us in prayer.

Agenda Amendments/Approval:

The following amendments were made to the printed Agenda: Item 1. c. postponed to September; two items added: subsidy for VBS applicant, July 1 Statutory holiday.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that the minutes of May 17 be approved with these changes: *Trustees and Communication Updates: (3) ... support this Communication Specialist position; ...Communications Team has provided an edited copy of Dorothy Foster's funeral service to her family; Grants Updates: ...pathway is not created by March 24....* CARRIED

Treasurer's Report:

Dick Huffman reviewed financial information he previously circulated. **Motion:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that the Treasurer's report be accepted. CARRIED

Spring Topics and Other Business:

Trustees and Communication Updates

a. Allyn Todd reported that three expressions of interest were received with regard to the posting of the Communication Specialist job. Only one applicant was interviewed by Allyn and Wib Dawson and subsequently that applicant has decided to withdraw his interest. Wib and Allyn met and after discussion produced a new job description for the position (see attached). It was mentioned that we may have to make this a 20 hours/week job in order to attract applicants. Another suggestion was made at the meeting to look into asking a Western or Fanshawe student to look at the original 13 hours/week description. **ACTION:** Allyn will speak to Marilyn Arthur about possible candidates she may know of while Rev.

Sheila will also contact someone she knows who may be interested in this position. We have not abandoned the idea of starting with a part-time, entry level opportunity for someone.

b. Siloam does need a UCC video-licence if we are to show movies in the church or use movie clips for different purposes. Allyn Todd is checking out two different companies which will provide the licence for a fee. Allyn will also speak to Wib Dawson and further explore what exactly we need to do.

Indigenous Garden

Randy Donkervoort presented a request from a dart club for a charitable receipt issued by Siloam. A \$500 donation was given to help with expenses of the garden operated by members of the Oneida Reserve and the donor would like a receipt. This might be handled as a flow-through transaction from the donor to Siloam to the garden but Dick has volunteered to contact our accountant about this and will relay his findings to Randy who will then contact the members of the dart club.

Motion: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Barbara Walters that Siloam United Church provide the receipt as requested if Famme & Co. declare this an acceptable accounting transaction. CARRIED

Grants Updates

Catherine Glover reported that two grants she applied for dealing with covid recovery have been denied. There is another grant submitted to ARWRC that she has not heard about as yet. The New Horizons grant of \$9 600 that could be used to replace the walkway into the Catherine Newton Memorial Garden is still available until March 24/2024. **Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Pauline Newton that the replacement of the front garden pathway be funded by a combination of the \$9 600 from the New Horizon's grant, \$5 000 from the Operational Budget and \$5 000 from the Trustees' Non-Designated Fund. CARRIED Catherine will report back to the New Horizon's Grant program administrators of our decision to go ahead with the walkway.

Catherine also updated everyone about the Faithful Footprints grant for which Siloam has already been approved. She pointed out that if we can raise \$10 000 on our own, the grant of \$20 000 will be given. **Motion:** Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Lynn McClary that Siloam United Church Council support the reduction of our carbon footprint by utilizing the grant of the Faithful Footprint Program. Siloam Council asks the Rose Birrell Unit and Siloam Trustees together to help Siloam qualify for this grant by identifying \$10 000 (\$5 000 from each group) from their respective budgets (Rose Birrell) and non-designated funds (Trustees) in order to support reduction of our carbon footprint. Combined with the \$20 000 grant this will create a total \$30 000 investment in the building which will be used to replace doors and appliances and reduce our energy consumption. CARRIED

Fall Yard Sale

Mary Ella Pettigrew has agreed to lead another yard sale on Saturday, September 16. Announcements will follow.

Chicken BBQ

The recent June 3rd BBQ was a wonderful success raising \$5 800. It was noted that we do need more people to take leadership roles in this fundraiser.

HEAT

a. Lynn McClary and the members of the HEAT committee are very pleased with the excellent response given to the Affirming Ministry celebration held on Pride Sunday, June 4.

b. With the escalation of violence toward LGBTQ+ people in schools and municipalities, we must be vigilant in our disapproval of such behaviour. Please let Lynn or any member of HEAT know of any measures that you would like to see Siloam or the HEAT committee take to (a) show our support for this marginalized group or (b) fight the belief held by the anti-LGBTQ+ members of society.

c. The London Pride Parade takes place on Sunday, July 23. Lynn hopes that about 100 people from different United Churches will walk in the parade. Marilyn Arthur reports that the youth in her programs are showing tremendous support of this activity. Lynn has advised that she will keep Siloam members apprised of any petitions that support Pride issues so that they may sign and declare their support.

Remit 1

Chair Britton circulated information about Remit 1 prior to the meeting and asked Council members to review this. It was suggested that members from Siloam, First-St. Andrews and Metropolitan join together and invite a speaker to address the details contained in Remit 1. Other churches, of course, could also be included to form a larger group of people to hear a clear explanation of the changes that are being presented.

Notes of Zion UC and St. Mary's UC

Lynn McClary will draft a letter on behalf of Siloam Council and present it to a member of Zion UC as the parishioners conduct their final service of worship on June 25.

Catherine Glover will send a letter of condolence on behalf of Council to the members of St. Mary's United Church as they mourn the passing of their minister.

Subsidy for VBS Applicant

A request from Marilyn Arthur to receive a subsidy for a VBS applicant has been granted by the Rose Birrell group. Barbara Walters will contact Enid Wilson who will issue the money to Marilyn.

July 1 – Statutory Holiday

Because July 1 falls on a Saturday this year, Council decided that Erin Salter should receive Friday, June 30 as her stat holiday time.

Diana Butler-Bass Presentation

Rev. Sheila expressed her delight that Siloam will host a presentation by Diana Butler-Bass in the fall. This is a real coup for Siloam as Ms. Butler-Bass is a highly sought-after speaker who gives her presentations all over the world. Council members were encouraged to let others know about this wonderful opportunity to hear such an excellent speaker. It is Rev. Sheila's hope that we can fill all 150 attendance spots.

Search for a New Minister:

Rev. Sheila left the meeting at this point so no in-camera motion was needed.

Pauline Newton quickly reviewed the previously-circulated results of the survey sent out by e-mail and post to gather the thoughts of what people felt were important features to be looking for in a new minister. She also mentioned that Rev. Kerry Stover, our liaison person in our search, has told her that the wording of the job description is **very** important. Rev. Stover also stressed that our initial first statements to attract prospective candidates must be "really good" and "concise". These initial statements must catch a candidate's eye in order to encourage the person to actually read the full job description. We all realize that we must be very realistic in our job description outline.

As a prospective timeline, Pauline and her committee hope to have an approval of the job description by the end of July and a Search Committee formed by the end of the summer. A congregational meeting would have to be held, hopefully in September, to approve the job description before it can be officially posted. It is felt that, realistically, the earliest we could fill the position would be September, 2024. Everyone is in agreement that we need to take our time and not rush into anything.

A few names were offered as possible members of a Search Committee. Please let Pauline know of anyone you think would be a good member for this committee.

Appreciation was expressed to Margaret Smith for her work in organizing Rev. Dr. Sheila's retirement reception to be held on June 25. Margaret reported that we will be hosting 200 for a luncheon following the service; presentations will be made at

the end of the service in the sanctuary; Rev. Ann will say a blessing of the food in the sanctuary so the luncheon can start immediately after the service; and Rev. Sheila will proceed directly to Tolpuddle Hall after the service.

Next Meeting:

Our regular Council meeting will be Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. It is quite likely we will need to hold a special Council meeting in August. The date will be determined later.

Closing Prayer:

Chair Britton led everyone in the Lord's Prayer to close the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Steven Britton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary