

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

November 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Mabel Sproule Library Chapel

Present:

Rev. Ann Corbet, Steven Britton (Chair), Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), Catherine Glover, via ZOOM (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)

Regrets:

Dave Dunham (Property), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Chair Britton welcomed Council members and asked Rev. Ann to open the meeting with prayer.

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Margaret Smith that the Agenda be accepted as printed. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Dick Huffman that the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting be accepted as printed and circulated. CARRIED

Business Items:

Treasurer's Report

- a. October Questions: Dick clarified numbers associated with the Boomerfest account, Diana Butler-Bass event fees, Congregational Life expenses and summer grants. We will be unable to obtain the Faithful Footprints grant for this year but will obtain it next year. Catherine Glover also indicated that she will be applying for other grants next year to help with costs for horticultural workers.
- b. Concerns about 2023 Loss: It is estimated by Dick that we will be financially in a loss position of approximately \$6 600 this year but he will have a better idea at the end of November. At this time, questions were raised about records showing revenue/expenses between the Trustees' funds and the operating account. Dick will be in contact with Anne Wheatley (bookkeeper) to clarify. It was suggested that perhaps Anne be included, via ZOOM, for our December Council meeting.
- c. CEBA Loan: Although a loan could be arranged with the United Church of Canada at 5%, it was agreed that we would borrow money from the non-designated funds under the management of the Trustees for the same 5% rate.

MOTION: Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Pauline Newton that Council direct the Trustees to provide for whatever amount needed up to \$40 000 to enable Siloam to pay off the CEBA loan of \$40 000. CARRIED

d. ZOOM meeting: Members of the ARWRC have asked for a ZOOM meeting with Siloam representatives to discuss questions they have about Siloam's plans to balance our budget and our ability to support hiring a new minister. Catherine, Pauline, Dick and Steven will participate in this meeting.

e. 2024 Budget: The Search Committee has been advised to submit a request of \$2 000 to be included in the 2024 budget to guarantee that travelling expenses could be paid if we have ministerial applicants travel to Siloam.

There should also be money budgeted to cover expenses for a clergy representative and Steven Britton to attend a three-day conference next spring in Pt. Elgin.

Allyn reported that Amy Viera has submitted her resignation as of November 20.

Christine Taleski will be assuming some of the work Amy was doing with regard to social media. This will be part of the job description for Christine that was laid out at Council's September meeting. It was noted that there is still some money left in the New Horizons grant Siloam received which will cover some of Christine's increased salary for 2024.

Trustees and Communication Updates

Allyn relayed that insurance costs for Siloam next year will be \$9 642.24. At a Trustees meeting, it was decided by members of the group that the cost be paid in three installments and that the money come from the non-designated funds held in their account. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that Council accept the motions made by the Trustees at their meeting regarding payment of insurance costs. DEFEATED It was decided that the Trustees will send the insurance invoice to Dick who will pay, in three installments, from Siloam's general account.

Money from the Boomerfest account will be transferred to the Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor Adult Education Fund to be managed by the Trustees.

Remit 1

Council members voted on Remit 1. There were 9 'yes' votes and 0 'no' votes.

Peggy will send the required document indicating our voting outcome to The United Church of Canada office. Catherine Glover will e-mail her vote to the UCC.

Job Description for New Minister

Pauline reviewed material prepared by her which forecasted our financial costs for 2024 and 2025 if we hired someone for 30 hours/week or for 40 hours/week. This material will be beneficial when speaking with the ARWRC members at the planned ZOOM meeting.

Request for Increased Team Leader Salary for 2024

Marilyn Arthur has indicated that the team leader for the summer youth program this year received a top-up in salary to recognize the extra work. Next year, there should be enough money from grants to cover this top-up amount. If needed, however, Siloam agrees to give, along with FSA and Metropolitan, \$200 to provide enough money to cover this extra expense.

Four Sundays of Thanksgiving

Catherine reviewed the results of the Thanksgiving Stewardship campaign. It was noted that cash/cheque/e-transfer donations added up to \$5 900 and those on PAR increased their givings by \$5 700.

Special Events and Sundays

Our White Gift Sunday will be held on December 10.

The choir will present a cantata on December 15 and 17th.

Communion will be served at the morning service on December 24.

Urban Roots

Steven announced that the Urban Roots facility on Norlan Avenue had been broken into and that several tools and equipment had been stolen. It was suggested that an e-blast be sent out to congregants to ask for financial support to aid this wonderful organization.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Ann closed the meeting with thoughtful prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Steven Britton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary