

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

October 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Siloam Library Chapel

Present: Rev. Ann Corbet, Steven Britton (Chair), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), 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)

Regrets: Dave Dunham (Property)

Welcome, Opening Prayer:

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

Agenda Amendments and Approval:

The Agenda was approved after noting that Catherine Glover would speak to Item #4.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that the minutes of September 20 be approved as printed and circulated. CARRIED

Report From the Treasurer:

Dick went over his previously circulated document outlining his projection for Siloam's financial position over the next three months based on the best information available to date. Hopefully revenues from FundScrip will increase and that the last three months of this year will put us in a positive financial position.

Dick suggested that we take advantage of a United Church Covid Bridge Loan that is being offered to churches at the rate of 5%. This would replace the need for us to use our line of credit in some situations which charges 7.7%.

Chairs of all committees should start putting together a 2024 budget and submit at the November meeting a fairly good idea of what is needed.

An examination of payment dates of bills and dates of PAR receipts will be done to see if changing some of the dates we pay bills could help avoid having to use the line of credit.

We will definitely re-pay the CEBA loan of \$40 000 by December 31 of this year. If our bank account is viable at that time, the money will come from that source; otherwise it will be covered by our line of credit.

Fall Topics and other Business:

Trustees and Communications Update

Allyn Todd reported that the Trustees will be in discussion regarding the insurance policy covering the church and will see that the bill is paid. The cost of the new walkway has been fully paid through a grant Siloam received plus a donation from Bob Foster and family. A permanent sealant will be applied to the walkway later this month.

Allyn mentioned that we have received many positive reports concerning the AV team and their excellent skills in producing a first-class presentation of our Sunday services. Until further notice, Christine Taleski will become the Audio Visual Team Lead and have her hours increased up to 13/week. Allyn will become the Audio Visual Financial Coordinator. Council is in favour of trying this new arrangement until the end of 2023 when it will be reassessed. An outline of how all revenue received by Siloam from parties using the facility and/or services available is attached.

Job Description Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care and Outreach

A further revision has been made to the job description for the position mentioned above.

MOTION: Moved by Catherine Glover and seconded by Lynn McClary that we accept the final job description for the Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care and Outreach. CARRIED

A training session for the members of the Search Committee will be held on November 6.

Community of Faith Revised Documents

These documents have already been approved by Council. They will be presented to the congregation for approval at the meeting on November 5.

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Catherine Glover that Council go in camera. CARRIED

During this time, Council discussed cost of living increases for staff members. After Rev. Corbet returned to the meeting, the following motion was made. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Margaret Smith that Council move out of camera. CARRIED

Updates on Grants

Catherine has submitted two applications to the Seeds of Hope Grant Program of the United Church of Canada: one in the amount of \$7 500 in support of the Urban Farm Ministry with Urban Roots and one in the amount of \$3 225 in support of both the Young at Heart and the Community of Faith musical.

Eco Canada and Canada Summer Jobs grants will be submitted by deadlines in November of this year and January of next year respectively to ensure we have horticultural workers for next summer.

Movement of Funds

Lynn McClary noted that an amount of \$5 000, from a grant that must be used for adult education, is in the General Account and will be transferred to the bank account that was set up for Boomerfest and Adult Education. Expenses for the Diana Butler-Bass event will be paid from this account. Any monies left over after the Butler-Bass event will be transferred to the Rev. Dr. Sheila Macgregor Adult Education Fund which falls under the auspices of the Trustees.

Four Sundays of Thanksgiving

Catherine indicated that this year's stewardship campaign had a more "fun" factor incorporated into it. The campaign will wrap up on Sunday, October 29. After the service, there will be a

luncheon in Tolpuddle Hall and a produce market available. Urban Roots will be supplying a gathering of vegetables for purchase.

Catherine also reviewed the outline of proposed fund-raising events for 2024 as discussed by the Congregational Resources Committee members.

Special Events and Sundays

November 5 will be the Congregational Meeting to approve the Community of Faith documents and the Job Description for Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care and Outreach. This will also be the service when a tribute is made marking Remembrance Day.

December 10 will be White Gift Sunday. It is hoped that many of the congregants will purchase gift cards through FundScrip to support this event.

December 24 will have a morning service and a Christmas Eve service.

Remit 1

a. There will be a regional presentation regarding Remit 1 at Siloam Church on October 20 starting at noon. This will be a two-hour presentation followed by discussion if needed.

b. Council members will discuss and vote on Remit 1 at the next meeting on November 15.

c. The Regional vote will take place on October 27 or 28. Chair Britton is registered for this vote. Clergy can also vote at this meeting, as well as within their respective church councils.

Congregational Life Report

Peggy has received support from Council to have a freewill offering basket provided at the congregational luncheon on October 29. Starting in January, 2024, Congregational Life will offer cookies and coffee after the service on the second Sunday of each month. The gathering will take place in Tolpuddle Hall.

Christmas Bazaar

Margaret Smith asked for everyone's support at the upcoming Rose Birrell Christmas Bazaar on November 4. This year there will be a tea room in the Library Chapel. Margaret expressed her thanks to Anita Elworthy for her work on the bulletin board outside of Tolpuddle Hall.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Ann closed the meeting with prayer and thanksgiving.

Next Meeting:

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

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Steven Britton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

