

Siloam United Church – Minutes of Council Meeting

December 13, 2023 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present:

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

Catherine Glover (Congregational Resources)

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 Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that the Agenda be accepted as printed. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by John Davidson that the minutes of the November 15 meeting, amended to show that communion will be served at the December 24 morning service, be approved. CARRIED

Business Items:

Trustees and Communication Updates

Allyn Todd reported that our insurance company has increased the value of the property and contents which means our insurance cost has risen. The Rose Birrell Group has generously given a cheque for \$5 000 to assist in paying the new cost amount to our current insurance provider. The Trustees will investigate insurance costs under the UCC Protect Plan for next year. **MOTION:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by John Davidson that Siloam will use the option of a \$10 000 deductible for renewal of next year's policy. CARRIED

At this time, Pauline Newton informed everyone that ARWRC has confirmed that churches are allowed to use money from interest earned on investments to help pay for capital expenses. Allyn has indicated that he will determine how much interest we have earned in the Trustees' non-designated funds.

Discussion arose regarding the use of the church credit card. Those using this card **must** submit proper requisition forms/receipts in order to help our bookkeeper know how and where to expense items.

Treasurer's Report

(a) November Questions

Dick Huffman reported that we had a monthly loss of \$10 388 and a year-to-date loss of \$75 930. While expenses are trending under budget, our givings are below expectations. We need to discuss what we need to do to try and stay ahead.

(b) \$40 000 CEBA Loan

It has been decided that we will pay the government directly, by January 18, the full amount of the CEBA loan. At last month's meeting, it was decided that the \$40 000 would come from the Trustees. **MOTION:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Pauline Newton that we borrow the \$40 000 from the Trustees interest free. CARRIED

(c) 2024 Salary Budget

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council go in camera. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council move out of camera. CARRIED

MOTION: Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Council accept the proposed 2024 Salary Budget as presented. CARRIED Two opposed

Job Description For Minister

Pauline noted that the Position Title on our job description for a new minister has been amended to read: Minister of Worship, Spiritual Care and Outreach. However, it was stated that the new person would need to help Rev. Ann with some Pastoral Care as well. The job description information states 30 – 40 hours/week for the position but realistically it is felt that we may only be able to afford someone for 30 hours/week.

We are able to post the position after expected region committee approval on December 14.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2023.

(a) Appointing Nominating Committee

Margaret Smith indicated that we need to form a committee to recognize vacancies within the Council structure, receive names of possible interested parties and make calls to those people. Currently, we are looking to fill the following vacancies: Chair Elect of Council, Chair of Council, Chair for Congregational Resources Committee and Chair for Communications Committee. Margaret and Pauline have agreed to volunteer to join the Nominating Committee. An announcement will be made during services to perhaps secure other interested people. To address the situation of not having a Chair of Council, it has been decided that Council members will rotate this duty.

Faithful Footprints Grant

In order to hopefully receive the full grant offered from Faithful Footprints, Siloam was encouraged to increase the amount of projects we would like to do. By doing so, we needed to have \$4 582.00 more to cover the cost of these extra projects.

MOTION: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that Siloam Council direct the Trustees to release \$4 582.00 to support Capital upgrades as described in the Faithful Footprints Grant Application. These funds will complete the requirement of the (\$20 000) Faithful Footprints Grant opportunity and will support reducing Siloam’s carbon footprint with replacement of three doors, refrigerator and all LED lights in the Church. CARRIED

Special Events and Sundays

The Cantata will be taped on Sunday, December 17 and will be presented on Rogers TV several times during Christmas Week.

Donations from the Cantata presentation on Friday, December 15 will go to the Siloam Choir.

Staff/Committee Reports:

Dave Dunham indicated that the Forest City Singers have expressed interest in using Siloam’s sanctuary as their rehearsal venue. Dave will check out this possible arrangement which could start in the fall of 2024.

Allyn Todd indicated that those folks wanting to subscribe to Broadview Magazine will now do this on their own. Siloam will be dropping the group subscription practice.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Ann closed our meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, January 17, 7:00 p.m. **Budget Discussion Only**

Wednesday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Steven Britton, Chair

Peggy Rivard, Secretary

