

Siloam United Church - Minutes of Council Meeting

February 21, 2024 7:00 p.m.

O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel

Present:

Pauline Newton (Acting Chair, M & P), Rev. Ann Corbet, Wendy Barbour (Outreach and Social Justice), Steven Britton (ARWRC rep), Tracey Brown (Communications), John Davidson (Outreach and Social Justice), Dave Dunham (Property), Dick Huffman (Treasurer), John Little (Cong. Resources), Lynn McClary (HEAT), Peggy Rivard (Secretary, Cong. Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell), Catherine Glover (Guest/Cong. Resources)

Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Chair Newton welcomed everyone and introduced Tracey Brown and John Little, new members of Council. A video prepared by Wib Dawson and the AV Team was shown--the video emphasized the reasons why it is so important to be known as an affirming church. Rev. Ann opened the meeting with prayer and gave thanks to all who are passionate about inclusivity.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Allyn Todd that the agenda be accepted as printed and distributed. CARRIED

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Moved by Steven Britton and seconded by Margaret Smith that the minutes of the January 31, 2024 Council meeting be approved as printed and distributed. CARRIED

Business Items:

Budget Items

Catherine Glover began a power point presentation she had prepared by stating that she cares deeply about Siloam, believes in the future of our church and believes that we can and will flourish. Catherine sits on the National Church General Council and reminded us that so many churches are, right now, in the same difficult financial position as Siloam. Catherine indicated that the UCC and several churches are turning to developing a multipoint and multiyear plan to get to balanced budgets. Catherine stressed that it will be impossible to secure grants in the future if we continue to show a deficit each year...even if we cancel it out by using funds from interest earned on our investments. She also suggested we might

have trouble securing grants if we withdraw from the Shared Ministry Agreement. Catherine outlined some of the strategies we could implement to try and reach a balanced budget by 2026.

She implored Council to look at ways we could maintain a position for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and volunteered to be the lead in creating a multipoint plan. Catherine left the meeting after her presentation.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry

It was decided that Council would table the proposed motion of calling a congregational meeting to end the shared youth ministry agreement. We will explore the possibility of adding a fourth partner to the agreement. During discussion, it was also pointed out that we need to have a dollar figure in mind that we feel we could contribute to this shared agreement if we continue with it.

Correspondence

Chair Newton read a letter of resignation from Dick Huffman who will step down as Treasurer. Lynn McClary will take over this position. Sincere thanks was extended to Dick for his past seven years holding this position which included leading us through the very difficult Covid years. Appreciation was also extended to Lynn for accepting her new role.

Peggy Rivard read a letter addressed to Council informing us of the work that George Wilbur did in refreshing the Nursery/meeting area with a professional paint job.

MOTION: Moved by Allyn Todd and seconded by Dave Dunham that Dick Huffman and Catherine Glover be removed as signatories for Siloam and that John Little and Jim Anderson be added. CARRIED The four signatories now are Dave Dunham, Lynn McClary, John Little and Jim Anderson.

Treasurer's Report

Dick outlined the financial position for January, 2024 as noted on the document sent to Council members prior to the meeting. Dick pointed out that the Expense Record did contain payment for the total year's insurance cost.

Zoom Meeting

Chair Newton indicated that ARWRC had passed along the name of Katja Brittain who may be able to provide some guidance with regard to securing revenue from a permanent tenant. Pauline will contact Katja with some possible dates for a ZOOM meeting. Once a date has been established, Council members will be advised and will have the opportunity to join the ZOOM meeting with Katja.

Clarification of a Budget Target for New Ministry Position

It is necessary for Council to decide what our financial contribution to a shared Youth and Young Adult Ministry program will be before we can target a figure that we can afford for the new ministry position. Catherine Glover will be asked to approach other churches with the idea of finding out who might be interested in becoming a partner in the Youth Ministry program along with ourselves, FSA and Metropolitan. After determining our position with the Youth Ministry program, we will have a better idea of knowing how many hours we can assign to the new ministry position and what financial package we can offer for said position.

ACTION>Lynn, Pauline, Tracey, Dave and John will meet to discuss the latter issue.

Advertising Policy

Council has decided that outside groups can use our electronic sign for advertising their events provided: the group is not-for-profit; the group's values must align with our core values; the advertising can be displayed for a maximum of two weeks; their event does not conflict with a Siloam event; only one group at a time can use one panel of the five panels shown on the sign.

Core Values of Siloam

A first draft of "Siloam's Core Values" which will appear on our website was revealed. ACTION>at the next meeting, a few changes in wording will be made before anything is posted on the website.

Community of Faith: Financial Viability Worksheet

Because we are looking for a new minister, it was felt that we needed to update the document: Community of Faith--Financial Viability Worksheet. ACTION>Lynn, Allyn and Pauline will bring the numbers up to date.

Closing Prayer:

Rev. Ann closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

