

## **Siloam United Church - Minutes of Council Meeting**

**September 18, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**

**O'Brien/Sproule Library Chapel**

### **Present:**

Rev. Ann Corbet, Wendy Barbour and John Davidson (Acting Chairs, Outreach and Social Justice), Jim Anderson (Cong. Resources), Steven Britton (Regional Representative), Tracey Brown (Communications), Dave Dunham (Property), Lynn McClary (Treasurer, HEAT), Pauline Newton (M & P), Peggy Rivard (Secretary, Cong. Life), Margaret Smith (Spiritual Life & Worship), Allyn Todd (Trustees), Barbara Walters (Rose Birrell)

### **Regrets:**

Mary Dillon (VAM, Regional Representative)

### **Welcome and Opening Prayer:**

John Davidson welcomed everyone to the fall meeting and asked Rev. Ann to begin with an opening prayer.

### **Correspondence:**

Peggy Rivard indicated that Council had received a letter from the UCC thanking us for submitting our Faithful Footprints final grant report. She also mentioned that another letter from the UCC came which thanked us for our continued support of M & S and contained a Certificate of Thanksgiving which has been posted on the bulletin board.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Tracey Brown that the minutes of the June 19, 2024 Council meeting be approved as circulated. CARRIED

### **Agenda Amendments and Approval:**

**MOTION:** Moved by Tracey Brown and seconded by Peggy Rivard that the agenda be approved with a shift in order of some items and an addition of one item. CARRIED

### **Continuing Business:**

Dave Dunham reported that there have been some technical issues beyond the Property Committee's control regarding the installation of the new phone system. It is hoped that all will be resolved in a few days.

Dave also mentioned that George Wilbur had a person in to check the condition of our skylights. They are in very bad shape and will have to be replaced or covered over. Details will follow once estimates are received for each option.

**New Business:**

Financial Reports

a) Lynn McClary discussed the printed reports previously circulated to Council members. **MOTION:** Moved by Lynn McClary and seconded by Steven Britton that the financial statements be accepted as printed. CARRIED

It was decided that we will send out the August Financial Report Worksheet and the graph submitted by Allyn Todd via an e-mail blast to draw attention to our growing deficit.

b) Because of our severe, and possibly growing deficit, Lynn also discussed reducing our monthly contribution to M & S. Although we are mandated to submit a required amount to the UCC as a National Assessment, there is not a mandated amount for donations to M & S. There was much discussion about our budgeted amount of \$25 000 to M & S. **MOTION:** Moved by Dave Dunham and seconded by Pauline Newton that Siloam United Church withhold our regular monthly payment to M & S as of August, 2024 through to the end of 2024. At the end of 2024, if sufficient funds are available, we will reimburse M & S for the withheld funds. If we feel we cannot meet our budgeted \$25 000 amount at the end of 2024, a congregational meeting will be called in November to determine if the congregation wishes to honour our commitment or stay with the amount paid from January to July. CARRIED ACTION> Outreach and Social Justice Committee members will organize a special presentation for Thanksgiving Sunday followed by an appeal for everyone to donate money specifically targeted to go to M & S.

c) The cost of purchasing printed envelopes for donations has become very expensive. Lynn McClary and Peggy Rivard will prepare envelopes for those who require them in order to save this cost.

d) Allyn Todd informed Council members about an available grant through the UCC for marketing the church. This grant would be for \$10 000 but Siloam would have to add \$5 000 as part of the agreement. Christine Taleski has been approached to help with the writing of the grant and has offered to refuse any monetary compensation if the grant application was unsuccessful. The deadline date for application is October 15. **MOTION:** Moved by Steven Britton and seconded by Lynn McClary that Siloam make an application for this grant. DEFEATED

Covenanting Service for Mary Dillon/Farewell Gift for Marilyn Arthur

Rev. Ann will be preparing a Covenanting Service for Mary Dillon, our Volunteer Associate Minister on Sunday, October 6. At this service, a farewell gift will also be presented to Marilyn Arthur.

Report from M & P

- a) Pauline Newton acknowledged Rev. Ann's retirement date of April 1, 2025 and extended sincere thanks to Rev. Ann for her leadership and assistance throughout her time with us. We are especially grateful for the increased workload she has taken on since Rev. Macgregor's retirement.
- b) Pauline pointed out that our job description must be changed now as we look to hire a new minister. **MOTION:** Moved by Pauline Newton and seconded by Dave Dunham that Siloam's job description in hiring a new minister be changed to reflect employment of 40 hours per week, not 30 hours, with the understanding that Antler River Watershed Regional Council must also approve this before the new job description can be posted on Church Hub. CARRIED
- c) Tracey Brown indicated that realistically we should not expect that we may have a new minister by April 1, 2025. Tracey is hoping that one would be in place by June of next year, or possibly even September. Pauline Newton will speak to Mary Dillon to ask if she may be interested in assuming the paid interim minister position. If not, ARWRC may be able to help us secure an interim person.
- d) Dave Dunham reported that rental rates have been reviewed recently and are competitive with other locations offering space.
- e) Pauline introduced the idea of talks with neighbouring churches to get a feel about any church who might wish to amalgamate. Rev. Ann mentioned that Rev. Jeff Crittendon has been having these conversations with other churches for years. ACTION> Lynn McClary and Pauline Newton will speak to representatives at Rowntree to suggest that there may be opportunities to share resources between our churches. This would be done in a "planting seeds" approach which may, or may not, lead to further talks about amalgamation.
- f) It would be wonderful to reinstate some of our adult social groups to create a better feeling of fellowship. John and Wendy will make an announcement during a Sunday service to ask if any one or more persons would be willing to facilitate a group, e.g. movie night, card night, potluck dinner night

Search Committee

The committee will start meeting again in September. Our revised job description will be sent to ARWRC for approval and after their approval will be posted on Church Hub.

Spiritual Life & Worship

Margaret Smith has confirmed that Jen Prince will be the Anniversary Sunday guest minister on October 20. New members to Siloam will be welcomed on November 3.

### Upcoming Luncheons

The Rose Birrell luncheon held after September 15's service was extremely well attended. The ladies, along with some help from Cong. Life members, will do a repeat luncheon after Anniversary Sunday. If that luncheon is also very well attended, the Rose Birrell Group will plan a luncheon following the service every third Sunday of the month.

### Santa Shoppe Bazaar

Margaret announced the annual bazaar to be held on November 2 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed. Announcements will be made during Sunday services and a portable sign out front will also be in place.

### Cantata

Because of the number of activities that are always going on during December, there may not be a cantata this year. Choir members will be discussing this option and will report back with their decision.

### Request for Space

Peggy Rivard read a letter from the Christian Resource Centre indicating they will have to move their satellite operation at Fairmont United Church and would like to know if Siloam would be able to accommodate their space needs. ACTION> Peggy will speak to Mary Dillon, the Volunteer Manager of the CRC at Fairmont, to see if she feels there would be enough space in our Nursery room.

### Acknowledgement for Claire and Dave Graham

Since the Grahams have resigned from their custodial duties as of September 15, Dave Dunham proposed he make an announcement this coming Sunday asking the congregation to donate money towards a gift in appreciation for their many years of excellent service. We will invite them to the October 20 service and present them with a gift at that time. **MOTION:** Moved by Margaret Smith and seconded by Tracey Brown that Church Council make a monetary donation to the Grahams. CARRIED Dave indicated that the Property Committee members are interviewing applicants for the custodial position.

### Market Garden Pop Up

There will be raspberries on sale at church on September 22. If Catherine Glover wishes to organize a pop up market on October 20, she is able to do so.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program

It is unknown at this time if Metropolitan and First-St. Andrews will have a replacement for Marilyn Arthur which would allow the youth program to continue. It was noted that approximately two Siloam youth were involved in this program.

**Closing Prayer:**

Rev. Ann closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.**

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John Davidson (Acting Chair)

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Peggy Rivard, Secretary